FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-057
Friday
23 March 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-057 *23 March 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi-Syrian Agreement on Euphrates Reported *[Amman AKHIR KHABAR 19 Mar]* 1
AMU Interior Ministers Meet in Nouakchott 1
Taya Receives Algerian Minister *[Nouakchott Radio]* 1
Meeting Ends 17 Mar *[Nouakchott Radio]* 1
AMU Basic Structure Committee Meets in Tripoli *[JANA]* 2

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Meets U.S. Envoy to Riyadh *[SPA]* 2
ICO Denounces 'Threats' Against Libya *[SPA]* 3
World Islamic Popular Command Issues Communique *[JANA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Soviet Jewish Emigration *[Algiers TV]* 4
PLO Envoy Accused of Israeli Intelligence Links *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 21 Mar]* 7
'Arafat-Murphy Talks on Activating Dialogue *[INA]* 8
PFLP Official on PLO Policy, Jordan Visit *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 22 Mar]* 8
Fatah Issues Statement on Status of Intifadah *[Sanaa VOP]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Statement Issued on Recognition of Namibia *[APS]* 11
OAU Leader Discusses Talks With Benjedid *[APS]* 11
President Bendjedid Receives Cuban Official *[APS]* 11
Libyan-Inspired Movement Seeks Recognition *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Social Democratic Party Political Broadcast *[Algiers Radio]* 11

Egypt

President Mubarak Returns From Luxor 22 Mar *[MENA]* 12
First Ambassador to Namibia Named 21 Mar *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Sudanese Defense Minister Arrives for Visit 12
Makes Arrival Statement *[MENA]* 12
Holds Talks With Abu-Talib *[MENA]* 12
Comments on Talks *[MENA]* 13
Further on Visit of Libyan Industry Minister 13
Cooperation Agreement Signed *[MENA]* 13
Concludes Visit, Departs 22 Mar *[MENA]* 13
Loan Agreement With Arab Fund Signed 22 Mar *[MENA]* 13
Austrian Cooperation To Upgrade Military Hardware *[AL-AKHBAR 21 Mar]* 13
Oil Minister on Operation of New Oil, Gas Fields *[MENA]* 13

Libya

Editor on 'Al-Qadhdhafi Missiles' Remarks *[JANA]* 14
Statement 'Fully Recognizes' Republic of Namibia *[Tripoli Radio]* 14

Mauritania

Former Foreign Minister Allegedly Arrested *[AFP]* 14
Government Recognizes New State of Namibia *[Nouakchott Radio]* 15
Gambian, Guinean Heads To Mediate Dispute *[AFP]* 15

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives for Visit, Makes Statement *[Rabat Radio]* 15
Saudi Defense Minister Arrives in Agadir *[Rabat Radio]* 15
King Hassan Addresses Saharan Delegation 20 Mar *[Rabat Radio]* 16

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PLO Chairman *[Tunis Radio]* 17
Indonesia's Alatas Meets With Ben Ali, Officials *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 17
Maghreb Television Channel Inaugurated 20 Mar *[Tunis Radio]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Cited on Lebanon, Emigration *[London AL-HAWADITH 16 Mar]* 18

Saudi Arabia

Communique on Visit of Oman's Sultan Issued *[SPA]* 19

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Prime Minister Returns From Aden Joint Session *[Sanaa Radio]* 21
President Salih Approves 1990 State Budget *[Sanaa Radio]* 21

ISRAEL

Reaction to Halt of Hungarian Flights Reported 22
Soviet Pressure Denied *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Mar]* 22
Nativ, Netanyahu Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Shamir Reacts; Contacts Begun *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Shamir Under Pressure To Quit Likud Leadership *[HA'ARETZ 21 Mar]* 22
Peres Government Capable of Promoting Peace *[YEDI'OT AHARANOT 22 Mar]* 23
Hammer Attempts To Stop Narrow-Based Coalition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Degel Hatora, SHAS Spiritual Leader 'Dovish' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Contacts With Soviet Aviation Industry Ministry *[HA'ARETZ 22 Mar]* 24
Shamir, FRG Officials Discuss Improving Ties *[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Mar]* 24
Five-Year Plan on Immigrant Settlement Detailed *[THE JERUSALEM POST 23 Mar]* 24
GPO Issues Report on Fatah-Linked 'Terrorism' *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 25
Khan Yunus Man 200th Victim of 'Fellow Arabs' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Two Youths Killed in Nabulus; Two More Captured *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26

JORDAN

Paper Warns Against Corruption 'Witch Hunt' *[THE STAR 22-28 Mar]* 27
House Urged To Continue Uncovering Corruption *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 22 Mar]* 27
Investigation Teams To Probe Corruption Cases *[JORDAN TIMES 22-23 Mar]* 28

King Husayn Returns From France, UK *[Amman TV]* 28
Marwan al-Qasim Interviewed on Regional Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Mar]* 28
Finance Minister Discusses Debts, IMF Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 22-23 Mar]* 30
Policeman Killed in Shootout With Drug Smugglers *[JORDAN TIMES 22-23 Mar]* 32

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Rules Out Military Move in E. Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Fadlallah: 'New Situation' Regarding Hostages *[RFL]* 33
Al-Huss on Interior Minister's Resignation *[Voice of National Resistance]* 33
Ja'ja' on al-Ta'if, Dialogue, Other Issues *[VOL]* 33
Israel Reportedly Annexing Areas in South *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Israeli 'Occupation Troops' Active in South *[Beirut Radio]* 34
'Fierce Clashes' in Iqlim al-Tuffah Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Casualties Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Resistance Fighters Exchange Fire With Israelis *[VOM]* 35
Lebanese Forces Positions Come Under Army Fire *[VOL]* 35
'Third Party' Blamed for Shelling in Al-Matn *[RFL]* 35

SYRIA

Al-Asad Congratulates Namibia on Independence *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Friendship, Cooperation With USSR Praised *[SANA]* 36
Soviet Official Praises 'Brave Intifadah' *[SANA]* 36
Paper 'Not Surprised' by U.S. Anti-Arab Action *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

USSR Calls for All-Party Talks on Afghanistan *[Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES 22 Mar]* 38
Najibullah Interviewed on Party Situation *[BAKHTAR]* 38
Najibullah Interviewed by VOA 20 Mar *[BAKHTAR]* 39
Najibullah Sends Messages to Iran, Namibia *[BAKHTAR]* 40
Charge in Islamabad Alleges Tanay in Pakistan *[Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES 21 Mar]* 40
Armed Forces Repel Attacks on Khowst, Qandahar *[BAKHTAR]* 41

Bangladesh

President Ershad Returns From Visit to Italy *[Dhaka International]* 41
President Accepts Planning Minister's Resignation *[Dhaka Radio]* 41
Finance Minister Takes Portfolio *[AFP]* 42

India

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC's Qian Qichen 42
Holds Talks With Gujral *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Hopes for Border Issue Resolution *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Curfew Set on 5-km Strip Along Pakistani Border *[Delhi Radio]* 42
PATRIOT Warns Bhutto on 'Immoderate' Speeches *[15 Mar]* 42
Singh Returns From Namibia, Comments on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Commerce Minister on International Economic Order *[Delhi TV]* 43
Minister Briefs Parliament on New Punjab Steps *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Yaswant Singh Becomes Janata Dal Board Secretary *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Rocket Engine 'Successfully Ground Tested' *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Larijani Comments on Hostages, Ties With U.S. *[ETTELA'AT 15 Mar]* 44
Khamene'i Speaks in Mashhad on Strength of Islam *[Tehran TV]* 44
Editorial Comments on Lithuanian Independence Bid *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Mar]* 47

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Namibia *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Message Congratulates Pakistan on National Day *[Tehran Radio]* 47
*Report on 28 Feb 90 Majles Session *[RESALAT 1 Mar]* 48

Nepal

Further on Demonstrations for Multiparty System 54
5,000 Workers Strike *[AFP]* 54
Arrests Precede 'Solidarity Day' *[AFP]* 54
Students March in Kathmandu *[AFP]* 55
Spokesman Denies Use of PRC Arms *[Tokyo KYODO]* 55

Pakistan

Controversy Over Bhutto's Tenure Continues 55
Vote of Confidence Not Required *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Minister: Bhutto To Complete Term *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Opposition To Take Challenge to Court *[AFP]* 56
Growing Numbers of Kashmiris Cross Border *[AFP]* 56
President Speaks at Pakis Day Military Parade *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Iranian Army Chief Discusses Military Cooperation *[IRNA]* 57
Meets Naval Commander *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Authorities Ban U.S. Firm's Toxic Waste *[AFP]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi-Syrian Agreement on Euphrates Reported

JN2103135190 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 19 Mar 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Tunis—Amman—AKHIR KHABAR has learned that an agreement in principle took place recently between Iraq and Syria concerning the waters of the Euphrates River after the well-known crisis between the two Arab countries with Turkey.

Sources that attended meetings which took place between delegations from the two countries said that an agreement on the subject had been formulated. The agreement is now in the Arab League Secretariat and will soon be sent for signing to Baghdad and Damascus, and then on to Turkey for information.

The sources added that the agreement stipulates that Syria has the right to use 60 percent of the Euphrates River waters. The remaining 40 percent are for Iraq.

Sources very close to the Arab Cooperation Council summit which was recently held in Amman told AKHIR KHABAR that the summit concentrated on the war of water, which is obviously now being waged against the Arab east. It linked the subject to the political future of the region.

It added that the trend inside the summit meetings stressed the importance of achieving Arab solidarity, or at least attaining a minimum level of Arab reconciliation to stand with a united opinion before any new confrontations.

Observers said that the Iraqi-Syrian agreement could have stemmed from this policy. However, they ruled out the possibility that it will lead to a complete political reconciliation, at least not for the time being.

On the other hand, but within the same framework, information attained by AKHIR KHABAR reported that American companies which were contracted to finance the developed stages of the al-Wahdah Dam on the al-Yarmuk River on the border areas between Syria and Jordan withdrew their financial support last month.

It is noteworthy that the first stages of the project are almost finished.

Observers said that it seems that Israeli pressure has been applied on these companies to stop working on these projects and pressure Jordan in this way within the framework of other pressures that have recently been put on it.

AMU Interior Ministers Meet in Nouakchott

Taya Receives Algerian Minister

AB1903123090 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state, this morning received Mohamed Salah Mohammedi, the Algerian minister of interior who had just attended the meeting of ministers of interior of the Arab Magreb Union [AMU]. The meeting took place in the presence of Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidiya, member of the CMSN, minister of interior and posts and telecommunications, and His Excellency, (Rachel Najib al-Maroun), Algerian ambassador to Nouakchott.

At the end of the meeting, the Algerian minister said he delivered a message from Col. Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's brother and friend, President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. He added that he briefed the Mauritanian head of state on the positive results of the AMU ministerial meeting. He said the deliberations focused on humanitarian issues within the Great Arab Magreb. He added that the discussions also focused on issues of common interest. He said that Col. Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya gave him sound advice and that he in turn assured the head of state that the advice would be implemented both on the bilateral and Magreb levels.

Meeting Ends 17 Mar

AB2003110590 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The meeting of interior ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] ended yesterday evening at the government general secretariat. The AMU interior ministers adopted a report in which they examined ways and means of harmonizing legislation on security, the movement of persons, their conditions of residence, and the fight against natural disasters. On the free movement of persons and goods, the ministers decided to help remove all obstacles, particularly legislation or administrative formalities. Also, they decided to facilitate the transit of Maghreb citizens traveling by air or sea through the creation of [words indistinct] which would be exclusively reserved for them. (?They decided on the creation, along their common borders), of a technical committee to examine the issue. The ministers [words indistinct] concerning the visits by their citizens to any AMU member country. They decided to convene a meeting of a commission of experts made up of immigration officials at border areas of the AMU countries to (?draw up) the procedures and the statutes and to examine all matters relating to the unification of legislation governing the movement and residence of AMU citizens. This commission will meet in Libya in April.

The introduction of the Maghreb citizens identity card is aimed at facilitating the movement of citizens of the five

Maghreb countries within the union. To this end, the ministers decided to harmonize their legislation governing the establishment and use of a single Maghreb identity card and to convene the second session of the technical commission in charge of the issuance of identity cards in May.

Concerning the coordination of security measures, which was the third item on the agenda of the meeting of the AMU interior ministers, the meeting decided to examine the possibility of creating security networks for investigations, to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and consultations between the local authorities of border areas, and to coordinate cooperation and consultations between the (?rural security) offices in order to present a unified stand on international issues.

On the subject of holding regular meetings between the management of the Maghreb security organizations at all levels and cooperation aimed at protecting (?the Maghreb region) from clandestine immigration, the ministers decided to work toward the creation of a complementary criminology laboratory in member countries and to initiate [words indistinct] employed by the security networks in conformity with [words indistinct]. They also decided to convene a meeting of directors general of security and police services of AMU member countries in Algiers in June, for the implementation of the decisions made by the ministers concerning security.

Concerning the fight against natural disasters, the document (?specified) that since the ministers had already established cooperation in this field, efforts continued [words indistinct]. These efforts were crowned with success. The (?session called on) the member countries to continue to strengthen their cooperation. They, however, stressed that in view of the [words indistinct] of the member countries, they would have to double their efforts through the holding of regular consultations aimed at fighting natural disasters [words indistinct] these phenomena, particularly desertification, pollution of the environment [word indistinct], fire outbreaks, and floods. In this regard, the participants decided to create a permanent Maghreb commission charged with coordinating the struggle against desertification and the pollution of the environment, to exchange information and experience, and to cooperate in the fields of training and orientation courses for officials. The directors of civil [words indistinct] will hold a meeting for the practical implementation of the decisions made [words indistinct] in Algiers in June. The ministers also decided to hold quarterly meetings in each member country.

According to the office of the current chairman of the heads of state conference, the first of these meetings will be held in Algiers in July 1990. The ministers also decided to organize a meeting of officials of local municipalities, wards, and territorial and regional administration departments, in Nouakchott in May. Finally, they charged the minister of posts and telecommunications with conveying to the head of state their profound gratitude for making it possible for them to hold this meeting.

AMU Basic Structure Committee Meets in Tripoli

LD2103225490 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 19, JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—The meetings of the Basic Structure Committee for the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) began its meeting this morning at the Grand Hotel in Tripoli.

The opening session was attended by the secretary of AMU affairs at the General People's Committee, Mustafa Filali the secretary general of AMU, some members of AMU Secretariat and some experts and specialists.

The secretary of AMU affairs addressed the meeting welcoming the members of the committee and said "The AMU is considered an important advanced step on the road of achieving the pan Arab unity and a practical response to the Zionist-imperialist conspiring aimed at the existence and the presence of the Arab man from the ocean to the Gulf."

He also asserted that the AMU Basic Structure Committee is capable of translating the right tangible political decision awaited by the sons of the one Arab people in the AMU.

Mustafa Filali, on his part, expressed gratitude for holding the meetings on the land of the Great al-Fatih and said "We are absolutely sure that convening the sessions of the Basic Structure Committee over the land of Great Jamahiriyah will yield positive results that will achieve the hopes and the ambitions of the one Arab people in the AMU".

Following a short recess, the committee began debating and studying the items of its agenda which included: organizational matters, the constitution, specify the work of the organizational councils, work teams and their specialities, timetable and place of convening, the executive programme for the working plan of the AMU, priority and future projects and setting a date for the second meeting of the committee and the new works ahead.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Meets U.S. Envoy to Riyadh

LD2103134190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1132 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Mar (SPA)—Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), had a meeting yesterday at his office with the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh, Charles Freeman. Dr. al-Ghabid said that they discussed a number of issues of common interest, particularly the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and their settlement there, and also developments related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The secretary general expressed his thanks for the position of the U.S. Administration opposing the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly occupied Jerusalem. He also urged the U.S. Government not to close the door to Soviet Jews, so that they will not go to occupied Palestine.

Dr. al-Ghabid described as encouraging the statements by President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker stressing the need for establishing a just and lasting peace in the region with the participation of Palestinians. He also voiced the hope that the United States would continue its support for the peace efforts in the region, and that the U.S. Government take all the measures to ensure this.

The ICO secretary general asked the U.S. ambassador in Riyadh to convey to his government the desire of the organization to see the United States—the state that assumes big responsibilities concerning world peace—play a great role at the Security Council to end the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, and seek a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question that would guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to set up their own state with Jerusalem as the capital under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

ICO Denounces 'Threats' Against Libya

LD2103134390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Mar (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) has strongly denounced the threats and pressure against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah (SPLAJ).

In a communique issued today by Secretary-General Hamid al-Ghabid, the organization expressed its full solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah, affirming the right of that Islamic country to provide itself with everything to secure the economic prosperity and social progress sought by its dear people. The organization is rather suspicious about the report on the fire that broke out last week at the al-Rabitah plant in Libya. The organization notes this fire comes in the wake of allegations and accusations aimed at conferring credibility on the claims that the plant produces chemical weapons.

The communique says: The ICO underlines the important assurances that have repeatedly come from the Libyan leadership on the peaceful nature of the al-Rabitah plant and Libya's preparedness to welcome an international monitoring team to confirm this.

The communique further says: The ICO, which is honored to count Libya as one of its founder-members, knows and fully appreciates the peaceful trends of the noble and Muslim Libyan people. The communique also stresses that the threats and pressure against the SPLAJ are groundless and unjustified.

World Islamic Popular Command Issues Communique

LD2203222290 Tripoli JANA in English 1640 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 22. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The International Islamic People's Command has paid tribute the steadfastness of the Libyan Arab people and its brave leader encountering the new crusade led by the U.S. Administration.

The Command has reconfirmed its active support to great al-Jamahiriyah against the U.S. plots [passage indistinct] in its communique released yesterday. The above command resolved to adopt the important and guiding speech given by the leader of the revolution as a document for the work of this conference.

The Command decided to elect great al-Jamahiriyah for the chair of the secretary general of this organization besides selecting the 25 members of the General Secretariat coming from various places worldwide.

The conference has paid tribute to the steadfastness of the generation of anger against the Zionist occupation of Palestine condemning all the attempts aiming at foiling the people's revolution there through Soviet emigrant Jews there.

Conference has lauded the jihad of the Moslems of Moro supporting the agreement of Tripoli and calling upon the government of the Philippines to abide by its commitments in connection with this accord and show respect to the Moslems granting them their right to self-determination to achieve a just peace.

The Command has hailed the independence of Namibia—the symbol of emancipation from colonialism and racism in Africa.

It has condemned the policies of racism and deportation practiced by a number of European countries against Moslems living there.

The communique has called upon all Moslems to solve their problems amicably and peacefully in the Islamic spirit of tolerance to foil the plots concocted against them.

The communique has paid tribute to Senegal and Mauritania for solving their [passage indistinct] and solidarity.

It has called upon Islamic countries and organizations to support the efforts of Sudan in encountering the international plots targetting cutting off the integrity of sisterly Sudan sowing the seeds of discord among its people.

It has also condemned the Western plots through the 'humanitarian aid and relief.'

The Command has denounced the use of missionary and religious work for achieving colonialist schemes incompatible with the noble values of divine messages.

The Command has stressed its adoption of the issues of Moslems worldwide announcing its full support to them calling upon the countries concerned to abide by granting the rights to the minorities in the Islamic world safeguarding their rights.

It has disclsoed its pleasure over the progress achieved in respecting the rights of Moslems and the recognition for their specific cultural and religious rights calling upon the Bulgarian Government to continue taking its steps to award the Bulgarian Moslems their full rights.

It has called for creating an Islamic information order and establishing institutions undertaking the filling of existing vacuum to confront the attempts at disinformation by Western hostile media.

The communique has promulgated the endorsement of the draft charter of the command and the endorsement of the internal rule put forward by the provisional general secretariat. Apart from issuing appropriate resolutions for the establishment of frameworks and establishments of the International Islamic People's Command specified in the charter.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Soviet Jewish Emigration

LD2303054190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1950 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the "state of Palestine," for "The Event" program, on 22 March in Algiers by unidentified correspondents—recorded]

[Excerpts] Tonight, the program "The Event" is honored to open a very big file, that of the emigration and relocation of Soviet Jews to Palestine. The program is also honored to welcome Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to discuss with him and open with him this file, in all its facets and repercussions.

First, we thank Mr. Yasir 'Arafat who has come to us specially to attend this program from Namibia, from Windhoek, thousands of kilometers away. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the matter is grave. This is what we have been able to monitor from news reports, from positions declared so far, from statements and figures. Do you have further information and facts concerning this matter?

['Arafat] Yes, and proceeding from this, we put this subject on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers at their meeting in Tunis a few days ago, and I invited the nonaligned committee of nine that met in Tunis at the same period, and also invited the Jerusalem committee to meet. We will also invite the Islamic foreign ministers to meet because the danger is not just for Palestine. Palestine is now occupied by 3.4 million Israelis. Thus, the 3 millions that Shamir and Zionist sources say that they will be able to bring in up to the end of this century—where will these 3 millions go?

I want to present some grave documents about where these 3 million Jews will go. This is a new Israeli banknote of 10 Agora, a new Israeli note. Overleaf, there is an engraving of the menorah. [Video shows 'Arafat displaying banknote, map] Under the menorah there is this map. As you can see, the map shows all Lebanon, all Jordan, all Palestine, two thirds of Syria, two thirds of Sinai, one third of Saudi Arabia and up to al-Madinah and Khaybar, and three quarters of Iraq. This new banknote was circulated on 10 February 1989.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, the matter is urgent and grave then, and it concerns the Arab world as a whole—because the Israeli entity, because as far as I know, the Israeli entity is the only entity that has no definite borders so far, and therefore, the greater Israel project is currently extending and seeking to take on a human content. Since the danger is looming over all the Arabs, have the Arabs taken up a position? Have there been inter-Arab contacts, Arab-Palestinian contacts, or Arab-Palestinian-Soviet contacts—because now the Soviet Union is the source of this newly emigrating colony, estimated to be 3 million strong, which constitutes a real looming danger to the homeland and the people?

['Arafat] First, it is not only the Soviet Union. It is estimated that this year for instance some 230,000 would be coming from the Soviet Union; and it is estimated that about 40,000 would come from Eastern Europe. Likewise, it is estimated that some 20,000 would be coming from Ethiopia. This means that, according to the documents and reliable information I have, some 300,000 Soviet migrants would be coming up to the end of this year, most of whom would come from the Soviet Union. Yesterday—and this is a very important point which must be known by all the Arab nation—the Jewish Taxes Congress decided to allocate between 4.5 to $5 billion for housing for these Jewish migrants. This year, they have decided to gather $420 million. The first part, $20 million, was sent yesterday to the Israeli Government from the Jewish Taxes Congress. This is in addition to what is paid by the U.S. government, officially estimated to be $400 million. Furthermore, the Israelis want this to be increased to some $600 million. Therefore, in addition to what they get from the U.S. government, they want to gather from 4.5 to $5 billion in the next 10 years to house the migrants.

[Correspondent] Pardon me, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. The reality is there. Are the Jews being relocated and displaced, or are they immigrating...

['Arafat, interrupting] This is a transfer [previous word in English]

[Correspondent] This is what I meant. This is a transfer that does not include merely individuals, but groups, if not a whole people...

['Arafat, interrupting] Oh, more than this.

[Correspondent] Please, let me finish, Mr. 'Arafat. Today the danger is there. What are the practical measures that have been taken at the Palestinian and Arab levels, as well as by Palestine's friends?

['Arafat] As I have already told you, it is not a right. They are, of course, talking about human rights. As far as the latter are concerned, the right of any human being should stop where the right of another begins. The rights of any human group, any people, and any nation should stop when the rights of other peoples and nations begin. This is a collective emigration. Therefore, it is a transfer. Furthermore, they are given no choice. They are being transported from the point of departure directly to Palestine. We heard a few days ago that some U.S. sources—a number of U.S. congressmen—have asserted that the Soviet Union should introduce direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

[Correspondent] Mr 'Arafat, much has been said about the Soviet Union's stance on whether it should allow its citizens to emigrate and leave the country. The measures to leave the country for another are in themselves a formal procedure—notwithstanding whether the emigrant travels directly or stops—which might or might not construed as a right. However, we have contacted the Soviet Embassy and have been handed the following statement:

The fundamental idea and the essence upon which the Israeli entity was created in Palestine were and still are emigration and relocation. The continuity of the entity, as conceived and propagated by all leaders of the Zionist movement, lies in the regrouping of Jews and bringing them together from all over the world. If we remember that up until the end of the 19th century, there were only some hundreds of Jews in Palestine, then we can understand the importance and the vitality of Jews' emigration to Palestine.

The idea of relocation originally was a European one. It began with (?Epros) call to the Jews in the 18th century to emigrate to Palestine and create a Jewish state under the protection of the British throne. In reality, the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th witnessed the first practical step, which led to the Balfour Declaration in 1917, which called for the creation of Jewish nation-state in Palestine. During the British Mandate in Palestine—which lasted 30 years, from 1918 to 1948—with the help of European consuls and the connivance of a number of European leaders who were calling for the creation of nation-state for the Jews, Britain brought in 650,000 Jews.

The decision to create the State of Israel, as well as the following calls by the leaders of the Zionist movement and the new entity, had an influence and led to an important period in the history of the Jewish emigration to Palestine, following the incentives and the guarantees of a good life given to the Jews.

Following the 1967 setback, the Israelis were able to occupy new Arab territories, a matter that gave the Israeli expansion process the need to cover and fill the vital new territorial depths with new inhabitants who would settle in the territories and defend them. Thus, there were the consecutive decisions to Judaize and to create new Zionist settlements in the occupied territories.

Today, however, following the new Palestinian revival to struggle, which is being practiced by the Intifadah daily, and not withstanding the international sympathy and the general understanding for the Palestinian cause, as well as the various plans for a settlement, Israel endeavors, despite its apparent response to the peace initiatives, to consecrate a new reality, which previously had been its fear of a flaw in the balance of the inhabitants of Palestine. Today the reality Israel is trying to impose by various means lies in its rejection of the ethics and the norms of international law and its fundamental principles by exercising an upside-down equation: Displacing the owners of the land and the homeland and bringing in people who have no right to it. [passage omitted]

Therefore, as I told Mr. 'Arafat a while ago, given the various statements coming out of Moscow, which are being reported here and there, we have contacted the Soviet Embassy. The Soviet adviser has given us the following Soviet perception.

[Ismail Khokeyev, adviser at the Soviet Embassy in Algiers] As you know, the perestroyka process in the Soviet Union began five years ago: It is a process of restructuring all aspects of Soviet life, including decisions concerning the freedom to enter and leave the Soviet Union for all Soviet citizens, without an exception. There is no law that forbid citizens to choose the itinerary of their choice. Within this framework falls the emigration of Soviet citizens, including those of Jewish nationality. It has been said that the Soviet Union compels them to go to Israel and the occupied territories. Such information is unfounded. The Soviet Union's stance toward the Middle East problem and its central cause, the just Palestinian cause, is a principled stand that has not changed. We are against the settlement of emigrants in occupied territories.

Within this framework, we say that following a number of our statements—as well contacts with Israel, the United States, and Arab countries—we have reached the conclusion that Iserael's settlement in the occupied territories of individuals who had never inhabited those territories before is a very serious matter of concern to the problem of security in the Middle East. For this reason, the Soviet Government decided to submit to the Security Council the issue of the Israeli illegal actions which consist in settling Jews in the Arab occupied territories. There is news about the existence of a direct airlink between the Soviet Union and Israel to transport

to Soviet Jewish citizens from the Soviet Union to Israel. This news is totally unfounded, and we hope that the international community gives its assessment of these actions which are illegal. We oppose them, and vehemently condemn them. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Arafat, millions of Soviet Jews are displaced to Israel, to Palestine, on the one hand. On the other hand, the Soviet Union submits a proposal to the Security Council to prevent the Israelis from settling the immigrants in the occupied territories. The statement of the Soviet counsellor means the occupied territories after 1967.

['Arafat] First, I oppose emigration in principle. We could not talk or admit the issue of emigration before the conclusion of the process of peace and settlement of the Middle East issue. Moreover, there would be a change in the balance of forces. The balance of forces on earth. This means that it is also my right, on behalf of the Palestinian people, to call Christians and Muslims in the world to come to Palestine. Why only the Jews? Also, Israel was recognized at the United Nations only after having accepted Resolution 194 which is that of the repatriation, the right of the repatriation of the Palestinians.

Well, how can the United Nations and the superpowers permit Israel to bring in Jews who have no link whatsoever with Palestine? I am the only one to say this, but also the original Jews. They say that these people do not belong to the twelve tribes. [passage omitted] If, for the sake of argument, we accept they have a historic right to come to Palestine, then we have a historic right to Andalusia, and the American Indians have a historic right to the United States. Therefore, when we speak about this right, where is the right of the Palestinians? Israel entered the United Nations only after recognizing the right of the Palestinians to return or be compensated—Resolution 194. Therefore, they should rather permit the Palestinians to return. Thus, before any settlement between us—Palestinians and Arabs—with this Zionist entity, before we arrive at a comprehensive settlement, we do not permit, and we cannot accept emigration as a principle; otherwise, it would be a change in the balance of powers.

Here I want to say something: It is not true that this is a part of human rights, as the Soviet Union said. Why send them to Palestine? Well, if the United States is closed—and it is closed by a decision—by a decision taken at the time when it was agreed in Malta over these things. This is among the Malta accords. And for this reason, I am saying that the Arabs must open their eyes and wake up, wake up from their sleep, so that Malta may not be at our expense, just like Yalta was at our expanse. So I say: Why not go to Canada, Latin America which has room, Australia. Why emigration en masse to Palestine?

For this reason, we have, as a matter of fact, taken some steps with the Soviet Union. We have sent a delegation and asked them for three things. Well, you want to evacuate Jews, well, forbid direct emigration to Israel.

Let me leave and choose as happened in the transit stations, in Vienna, in Bucharest, and in Rome. [passage omitted] We say: Evacuate them to any place and let them choose, do not usher them towards Palestine. This is one.

Second: We told the Soviets—you speak about human rights, well, why should you deprive them of their Soviet nationality, and deprive them of their passports? Well, this is against human rights. Therefore, you are both for human rights on one side, and against them on the other side. Because he is a Jew, you take the passport away from him and you give him a travel document valid for three months only. We said to the Soviets: They must keep their nationality, keep their passports, and keep the right to return to the Soviet Union, just as President Gorbachev last year agreed to let 84 Jewish families to go from the U.S. to the Soviet Union. When Gorbachev was in the U.S., they came to him and asked him to allow them to return to the Soviet Union. He permitted their return. Therefore, the new migrants must have the right to return to the Soviet Union. [passage omitted] No, I say: Will they allow Muslims in the Islamic Republic to come to Palestine? Will they allow Christians to come to Palestine? This is the question. [passage omitted] So we told the Soviet Union: We thank you for taking the issue up to the Security Council, but we do not want a weak decision, and we Palestinians do not agree to the decision made by the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

['Arafat] For this reason, what did I say? When we sent out our delegation with this demand. They said: We will present... [changes thought] We understand your fears, and we will submit draft laws to the Supreme Soviet. They have asked us to give them a delay of two-three weeks in order to issue the decisions I have mentioned. [passage omitted]

We have called for an open debate at the Security Council. We began it on the 16th. On the 16th of last month, they wanted to adopt one of the weak resolutions I have mentioned. No, we reject weak resolutions, and our plan is to secure an open debate. We hope to arrive, with our Soviet friends, at securing the issuance of the decisions they discussed in order to preserve our rights; and at the same time they would be able, through these decisions, to observe whatever human rights they want.

What I want to say regarding this question is that we have invited the nonaligned states, and we have agreed for the non-aligned to take part in the open debate at the Security Council; an open meeting without limits. We do not need a weak resolution: Either a strong decision with international observers to monitor it, or then we do not want a weak decision. For this reason, we have urged the Arab, Islamic, nonaligned, and friendly states to help, and we have addressed ourselves to the friendly Soviet Union and made these demands to it. We also now have urged all these Arab, Islamic, nonaligned, and friendly

states to make moves at all levels. Moves are not required at Palestinian level only, they are required at Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and non-aligned levels, and at the level of all our friends, but moves are also required from the Pope.

Here I must mention what Bush said. He said a very important thing. Replying to the Zionist lobby concerning the settling of Jews in eastern Jerusalem, he said: No, Jerusalem is occupied territory. We have assessed this positively.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, do you not believe that the danger is considerable and needs a brave, progressive Arab position? Do you not believe in the need for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to discuss this problem: First, in order to adopt a firm Arab position, and then to convey this position to the Soviet Union and the international community as a whole?

['Arafat] As a matter of fact, not just to convey; We need steps on the ground. For this reason, among the things agreed on by the brother Arab foreign ministers at their Tunis meeting is the importance of the rapid convening of an Arab summit. We will march in this direction, not for the sake of resolution-taking; resolutions are not useful anymore. As I said in the gist of my words, 3.5 million Israelis are occupying Palestine entirely, and I want to ask: The 3 million are coming for whom? For the Arab nation. I am saying: As God is my witness, I have conveyed the message. [passage omitted]

['Arafat] During the celebrations of Namibia's independence yesterday evening, I met with Comrade Shevardnadze and raised this issue. I agreed with him that in addition to the delegation that went to Moscow recently and had talks with them in this respect, we should pursue this subject with them. He told me that this Palestinian concern and fear have become the focus of attention of the Soviet leadership. Within a few days, I will be sending the delegation back to the Soviet Union to follow up what they promised us they would carry out from among the three things I mentioned earlier.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, in the current circumstances Israel is trying to establish a sort of information blackout over this great wave of Jewish emigration to the Arab occupied territories, and to create a political crisis, the so-called flaw in the Israeli authority. Can this be regarded as a way of gaining time to enable these Soviet Jews to settle in the Arab lands because the Israeli president has given a delay of 21 days to Peres to form the new government? Can this be considered a sort of conspiracy?

['Arafat] All the Israeli parties—Likud and Labor—are agreed on this matter, and even at a time when Shamir says: I cannot prohibit any Jew to live in any place in Palestine, even in Holy Jerusalem; one of the three main clauses of the political line of his proposed government is the settling of migrants. Thus, this point is undisputed in Israel, and there is no maneuver over it. All agree on it, but the flaw that happened in Israel was caused by two things: First, the continuing intifadah; they thought that the intifadah would finish in two days, two weeks, or two months. [passage omitted]

It was this intifadah that caused the flaw inside Israel. The second point that caused the flaw was the decision we made at the National Council meeting in Algiers in 1988, with the proclamation of the Palestinian state, and the Palestinian initiative, which I took and announced at the United Nations in Geneva in 1988. Therefore, instead of appearing among us, flaws appeared in them, at the summit of the Israeli pyramid.

[Correspondent] How do assess the chances of peace in light of all these facts?

['Arafat] I want to say just one thing: I am neither a pessimist nor an optimist; I just deal with realities and facts. I say that peace is imposed by the Arabs; peace is imposed by the Palestinians. We have offered a peace of the brave, Shamir did not agree to a peace of the brave because there was not a brave man among them, because peace needs bravery, because the alternative to peace is explosion and war. This Arab region is the sole Middle East region where there is no limit on armaments. There are nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, all types of classical arms. Therefore, a future war would not be of the six- or seven-day type. The six- or seven-day-type war ended in Beirut. In Beirut, they stayed 88 days, and yet the war continues in southern Lebanon after seven years. It has continued from 1982 to the present. Thus, the blitz wars have gone. A future war would be a destructive one, therefore the Israelis, the Israeli leadership must decide whether they want war or peace, the Arabs must prepare themselves for the answer. We want peace, in light of this Israeli practice.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] The sacrifice of a people with such greatness and generosity cannot but lend to an inevitable victory, sooner or later. We thank Mr. Yasir 'Arafat.

['Arafat] I want to make an appeal to my Arab nation, an appeal from the heart not to be mean to the intifadah. I urge my Arab nation, to all the mujahidin, the free and noble men, to stand on the side of the Palestinian children until they can live free and sovereign on their free and sovereign land, in peace on the land of peace, the land of Palestine. I am saying: Let them enter the mosque. Victory is coming! It is coming. Dawn indeed is coming, and the state is within a stone's throw. [passage omitted] This is inevitable. We will enter the [al-Aqsa] mosque. We will pray together in Jerusalem, God willing.

PLO Envoy Accused of Israeli Intelligence Links

JN2203185490 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Mar 90 pp 1, 22

[By Najih Khalil and Husayn al-Tantawi]

[Excerpts] AL-SIYASAH has learned that Fatah Revolutionary Council member Ghazi 'Abd-al-Qadir

al-Husayni has withdrawn from the Council in protest against the appointment of 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, the PLO's representative in Bonn, as a member of the Fatah Central Committee, and against whom an irrefutable bill of indictment has been filed. Al-Husayni said that he had handed this indictment, along with documents and recordings, to the commander-in-chief [Yasir 'Arafat] and Hani al-Hasan. He added that he had also demanded that the charges be investigated on account of their seriousness.

Many Fatah leaders threatened to resign if a serious investigation were not initiated concerning these charges. The issue has not been settled yet.

Casting doubt on al-Ifranji's loyalty in his letter of protest that included these charges, al-Husayni, who also threatened to resign along with 50 major Fatah cadres, said that he refuses to remain a member of a movement that has a central committee member with connections to Israeli intelligence.

In a telephone conversation with AL-SIYASAH in Tunis yesterday, al-Husayni, who is the brother of struggler Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Studies Center in Jerusalem, said that he gave the Fatah Central Committee three months to cancel the appointment of al-Ifranji after he had supplied it with irrefutable proof and documents to back his viewpoint. Al-Husayni, who is also the son of the well-known Palestinian leader 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni, stressed that if the Fatah Central Committee does not reexamine its decision, he will refer the issue to the Fatah Revolutionary Council, which will meet three months from now, when he and 50 other Fatah cadres will resign and withdraw from the Fatah Movement. [passage omitted]

On this issue, informed sources in the Fatah Movement have said that Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, Khalid al-Hasan, and Hani al-Hasan are not convinced of the truth of these charges, and that president Yasir 'Arafat has agreed to refer the issue to investigation. The sources added that Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has not so far expressed his opinion on the issue, while other Central Committee members such as al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, have promised to withdraw their nomination of al-Ifranji. [passage omitted]

'Arafat-Murphy Talks on Activating Dialogue

JN2303131090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 23 Mar (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, met here last night with Mr. Richard Murphy, former assistent U.S. secretary of state, and his delegation.

An informed Palestinian source told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Tunis today that U.S.-Palestinian talks dealt with the need to activate the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue toward finding a solution to the Palestine question that would guarantee the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The source added that the talks assessed the efforts made in the Middle East peace process and the continuation of the popular intifadah in the occupied Arab lands.

Mr. Murphy arrived here yesterday unannounced on what was described as a special visit.

PFLP Official on PLO Policy, Jordan Visit

JN2203111290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Mar 90 p 22, 18

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpts] Amman—Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said the obstacle to an Arab-Israeli settlement lies in the imbalance of power between the Arabs and Israel. He called for Arab unity and for the establishment of the eastern front to face up to the Zionist threat. Qubba'ah called on the Arab countries to freeze Arab trade with the United States and to direct Arab investment toward Western Europe and Japan, depending on these countries' policies and positions on the Palestine question.

He said the Arab nation is facing serious and true perils, and, therefore, should put all its efforts to normalize Iraqi-Syrian and Palestinian-Syrian relations with a view to establishing the eastern front comprising Jordan, Syria, the PLO, and Iraq. For Arabs to counter threats, he stressed, this eastern front and Arab unity should be established, and public liberties and democracy should be unleashed in the Arab world. [passage omitted]

Qubba'ah said the PFLP supports the Palestinian peace initiative declared by the PLO during the latest session of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. The initiative, he added, exposed Israel's real intentions of rejecting withdrawal from the occupied territories, negotiations with the PLO, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state. In light of the Palestinian, Arab, and international developments that emerged since the last PNC session, the PLO sees a need to evaluate all aspects of the situation, he said.

Qubba'ah said the PFLP has asked for the convening of a new PNC with a new composition to assess the march, enhancing positive aspects and avoiding negative ones. He said the PFLP asked in its bylaws for an annual PNC meeting, for reformation of the Council every four years, and for holding a new session to assess all Palestinian policies. [passage omitted]

Qubba'ah stressed that PLO factions are avoiding all internal complications for the sake of the intifadah.

On his visit to Jordan, Qubba'ah said this is the first time he visits Jordan as an ordinary citizen, not as an official.

He said he met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday and the king's political adviser, 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, on Wednesday.

Qubba'ah said these meetings came within the PFLP's positive assessment of developments in Jordan, noting the country's movement toward democracy and its release of political freedoms and passports.

Qubba'ah warned against the dangers surrounding Jordan's democratic experience. He pointed out that Israel is not happy with this experience as it wishes to portray itself as the only democratic state in the region.

Fatah Issues Statement on Status of Intifadah

JN2103181390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] held its extraordinary and ordinary sessions from 15 to 18 March 1990. The agenda of the extraordinary session was devoted to internal matters in the Fatah Movement. The FRC discussed the draft of the internal rules of the council and unanimously approved it. The FRC also approved Chapter 5 of the Constitutional Law on the command organizations in the movement on the regional level. The FRC formed a special committee under the chairmanship of the FRC secretary to prepare the bills for financial and organizational supervision so that the FRC will study them and endorse them in the coming session.

The FRC held an ordinary session following the extraordinary session. At the beginning of the meetings brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presented a comprehensive report on the heroism of our people in our occupied homeland in continuing and escalating their blessed intifadah. He stated the great intifadah has proved to the entire world that the Palestinian people are inevitably capable of defeating the Israeli occupation.

The commander in chief reviewed in his report the various international changes and positions. He noted that the intifadah, which is armed with the masses' solid will and with the Palestinian political initiative, has imposed our cause on international forces and inflicted on the Israeli enemy consecutive political and diplomatic defeats. This suffocating crisis has toppled the Shamir government. This fall carries extensive indications affirming the fall of the Israeli occupation and the inevitable recognition of our people's right to self-determination, repatriation, and establishment of the independent Palestinian state in the land of free Palestine.

The brothers and members of the Central Committee presented further reports on the various political, military, and organizational situations.

After a comprehensive discussion of the Central Committee's report, the FRC issued the following statement:

The FRC profoundly greets the continuous and escalating blessed popular intifadah in our occupied homeland to defeat the Israeli occupation. The FRC affirms to the intifadah masses that the Fatah Movement—as everybody used to know it—will continue the struggle in all national, Arab, and international arenas to escalate the intifadah, support national steadfastness, and realize our people's inalienable national rights, particularly our national independence.

After a deep discussion of this stage of conflict between our revolution and our people on one side and the Israeli enemy on another, the FRC is fully confident that the intifadah, together with the political action, has achieved historic achievements and continuous victories in the interest of our people on the path of continuing the resolute struggle to defeat the occupation and force the occupation forces to withdraw from our territory to establish our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The FRC, which holds its meeting on the glorious al-Karamah battle anniversary, reiterates the national Palestinian tenets included in the Palestinian peace initiative declared by our Palestine National Council and our Fifth General Congress. The FRC also reiterates that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of our masses inside and outside the occupied territory, and that any attempt to bypass the Palestinian side is doomed to failure. The PLO alone is authorized to speak in the name of our people inside and outside the occupied territories and in all international quarters.

The American and Zionist campaign to transfer the Jews from the USSR and some Eastern European countries to the occupied territories is a violation of the human rights of the Palestinians, because the organized emigration is taking place at the expense of their existence, territory, and homeland. The United States is basically responsible for this, because it shut its doors in the face of this emigration so that it would be geared toward one destination; namely, our Palestinian territory.

Out of our friendship and our relationship with the USSR, the FRC calls on the Soviet Union to completely stop the campaign of immigration to our land, Palestine. The FRC appeals to the international forces to immediately put an end to the waves of immigration to our occupied Palestinian territory. The FRC will spare no efforts to confront the crime of the age—carried out by the Zionist occupation against our people, the owners of the land, history, and the future.

The FRC discussed ways of confronting the dangers of the emigration targeted not only against the Palestinian people, but also at the entire Arab nation. The FRC called on the Arab nation to adopt a comprehensive pan-Arab stand and expedite the convening of the Arab summit to lay down a comprehensive plan to deter this danger threatening our people and our Arab nation. The FRC calls for embarking on an international action to

open U.S. and non-U.S. doors to the emigrants from the USSR instead of transferring them like herds to our occupied territory.

The FRC declares the support of its strugglers, revolution, and people for Libya and its fraternal people in the face of the threats and challenges facing it.

The FRC addresses special greetings and congratulations to sisterly Tunisia and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the national independence anniversary.

The FRC salutes in the name of our people African struggler Nelson Mandela, who expressed at his meeting with the brother commander in chief Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] the African people's support for our just struggle.

The FRC also salutes our friends, the Namibian people, on the declaration of their independence, our friend Sam Nujoma, and the SWAPO strugglers on this great victory.

The FRC greets with pride the Unified National Leadership, the popular committees, and the strike forces and groups, as well as the struggling national bodies in all sectors, the brave youths throughout the occupied homeland, the brave heroes in the revolting villages, cities, and camps who are recording with their pure blood the age of freedom and independence in Palestine.

The FRC greets our heroes, the prisoners and detainees in the occupation detention camps and prisons, who are facing with their solid will and firm determination, the occupation executioners. The PRC pledges to our martyrs and their families that it will continue on the path of struggle until victory is achieved on the soil of beloved Palestine.

We swear and vow to the souls of our righteous martyrs that the march and revolution will continue until the banner waves over the liberated walls of Jerusalem, with God's help. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

Statement Issued on Recognition of Namibia

LD2103173790 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 21 Mar, (APS)—A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Algeria's recognition of the Republic of Namibia. The text of the statement follows:

Africa and the international community welcome on this day, 21 March, the independent Republic of Namibia. This long-awaited historic event comes to crown the heroic struggle of the Namibian people for their independence and to reward the firm and constant commitment of the OAU to the decolonization of Namibia.

Algeria, which accompanied the battle of national liberation of the Namibian nation with its multiform support and its effective solidarity, is rejoicing today for its final liberation. It has the strong ambition to continue, with independent Namibia, the joint and brotherly action to serve the interests of Africa and the just causes of development and peace.

On this memorable occasion the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria declares its full recognition of the Republic of Namibia as of midnight, 21 March 1990.

OAU Leader Discusses Talks With Benjedid

LD2003201690 Algiers APS in Engish 1030 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 18/03/90 (APS)—Following his audience by President Chadli Bendjedid, the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Salim Ahmed Salim, told the press that he has "always taken advantage from the wisdom of His Excellence President Chadli Bendjedid and the support of Algeria to our continent for what I can call the step of economic liberation".

"I have examined with President Chadli Bendjedid, he added, the developments in the world, in the African continent and their impact on the African interests. We have also examined the way to face up these change in order to safeguard the interests of Africa." Salim Ahmed Salim also said he conferred with President Chadli Bendjedid on "African problems and conflicts such as the Chadian-Libyan and the Senegalese-Mauritanian ones. [no close quote as received]

The question of Western Sahara, Salim added, was also dealt with. Together with the will of Africa to solve its problems in order concentrate its efforts on the economic development of its peoples and its states.

Moreover, the OAU secretary general expressed satisfaction about these "fruitful" talks with the head of state.

"We have expressed our satisfaction about what is happening in austral Africa, mainly the forthcoming proclamation of the independence of Namibia and the liberation of Nelson Mandela. His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid has reiterated the importance for us to continue regional and international efforts in order to bring about the necessary changes in South Africa," he concluded.

President Bendjedid Receives Cuban Official

LD1903164690 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 18/03/90 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received yesterday Jorge Risque, member of the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party, in charge of external relations, who handed him a message from President Fidel Castro.

This audience took place in the presence of the foreign minister, Sid'Ahmed Ghazali, and Hachemi Hadjres, in charge of FLN external relations as well as the ambassador of Cuba to Algiers.

Libyan-Inspired Movement Seeks Recognition

LD2103222890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The Algerian Revolutionary Committee Movement submitted its file for approval to the Interior Ministry today. According to the rules of this party, founded by Mabrouk Nouis, the movement—I quote: has national objectives taking into account the patriotism of the Arab nation, Islam, and the values of the November revolution. It works for the establishment of direct democracy by its popular institutions as they are explained in the Third Universal theory in the Green Book through the implementation of the people's sovereignty.

Equally, the party envisions, and I quote: to associate the peasants and production workers, and it seeks equality between men and women, and the implementation of Islamic law in all spheres.

Social Democratic Party Political Broadcast

LD2103191890

[Editorial Report] Algiers Domestic Service in French at 1800 GMT on 19 March carries a 9-minute party political broadcast by the Social Democratic Party, presented by an unidentified speaker.

The speaker begins with the observation that the political and social situation today is more serious and conflict-ridden than ever. Signs of a crisis in the government are clearer than before October 1988. There is a need for concern about the future of democracy. The government is afraid of democracy and this is evident from the obstacles it sets in the path of the opposition parties. It retains a monopoly over the means of information and there is partisan use of the public information sector, almost exclusively for the benefit of the National Liberation Front [FLN]. The FLN has reason

to fear elections. The National Assembly continues to pass laws without having the legitimacy to do so. There is a crisis among all the opposition parties controlled from the outside.

The Social Democratic Party was set up a year ago and is now a considerable force. However it is currently experiencing an identity crisis and thus an extraordinary congress is to be called to deal with the problems.

The speaker hands over to the president of the national preparatory commission of the party's congress for details. The commission president explains that the congress will deal with decentralization and will be a congress of unity. All members are called upon to attend the congress, which will be held in Annaba on 22 and 23 March.

Egypt

President Mubarak Returns From Luxor 22 Mar

NC2203105390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Cairo after a brief visit to Luxor, during which he inspected hotels and tourist facilities. The plane carrying the president had earlier stopped in Luxor for a while because of bad weather conditions at the Cairo airport. [passage omitted]

First Ambassador to Namibia Named 21 Mar

NC2203130190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Egypt has nominated Minister Plenipotentiary Husayn al-Sadr as the first Egyptian ambassador to the independent state of Namibia. His excellency will present his credentials tomorrow as the first ambassador of a foreign state to Namibia. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Defense Minister Arrives for Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

NC2203131690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Defense Minister Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan [name and title as received] arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a five-day visit at the invitation of General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production.

On arrival, the Sudanese guest said he was very happy to be visiting Egypt because of the very close ties in all fields that bind the two fraternal countries.

Regarding the situation in south Sudan, the Sudanese defense minister stressed that the Sudanese Armed Forces have recently scored a number of victories and now have the initiative in their hands.

He also expressed the appreciation of the Sudanese Government and people for the role played by President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as OAU chairman in solving Africa's problems, including the debts problem. He added that the African continent is proud of Namibia's independence.

Regarding recent statements by John Garang, leaders of the rebels in the South, about crushing the Sudanese revolution, the Sudanese defense minister said Garang always makes inaccurate statements in order to raise the rebel forces' morale.

Gen. Abu-Talib said that the visit is in response to a natural invitation between brothers in the two countries to bolster and continue cooperation and to discuss all issues related to cooperation between the two countries' Armed Forces.

Holds Talks With Abu-Talib

NC2203151090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has emphasized the profound military cooperation and the well-established ties in all fields between Egypt and Sudan. In a statement at the conclusion of the Egyptian-Sudanese military talks this afternoon, Abu-Talib praised these relations, especially those pertaining to training and rehabilitation and noted that Egypt and Sudan have always supported each other.

Staff Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs [name and title as received], said Sudan does not need to confirm the ties between the two fraternal countries because these ties are old and the two people share the same language and religion as well as the Nile River.

Replying to a question on the military cooperation between both countries, Maj. Gen. al-Hasan said there is serious and beneficial cooperation between both countries' armed forces and defense ministries. [passage omitted]

A bilateral meeting between the countries' defense ministers preceded the Egyptian-Sudanese military talks. Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, attended this bilateral meeting. The Sudanese minister was given an official reception at the Defense Ministry headquarters before the talks began. Both sides are expected to hold a second round of talks before noon on 23 March to continue discussions on promoting and furthering bilateral cooperation.

Comments on Talks

NC2303123290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Staff Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, Sudanese minister of state for defense affairs [name and title as received], has stated that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's efforts to achieve peace in Sudan will soon yield a solution to the crisis of southern Sudan.

He also praised the intensive and favorable efforts that President Mubarak is making for the good of African states in his capacity as OAU chairman.

In a statement following the second round of military talks between Egyptian and Sudanese delegations today, the Sudanese minister said that cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two countries is continuing. He added that senior Sudanese officers are receiving instruction at institutes of higher scientific studies in Egypt, such as the Nasir Higher Military Academy, the staff and commanders college, and other institutes belonging to the various branches of the Egyptian Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit of Libyan Industry Minister

Cooperation Agreement Signed

NC2203132190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Egypt and Libya today signed an agreement on cooperation and industrial integration. Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab signed for Egypt and Dr. Fathi Hamad Ibn-Shatwan, secretary of the General People's Committee for Strategic Industries, signed on behalf of Libya. [passage omitted]

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab stated that the agreement provides for cooperation in the fields of engineering industry, particularly the manufacture of light and heavy vehicles, the production of iron and steel, and electronic industries. He said that the ultimate aim is to achieve integration in the relevant auxiliary industries and cooperate in future industries such as the generation of solar and wind energy. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs 22 Mar

NC2303101090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0921 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Fathi Hamad Ibn-Shatwan, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Strategic Industries, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Libya this morning after a three-day visit to Egypt.

Dr. Ibn-Shatwan said that during the visit an Egyptian-Libyan agreement for cooperation and industrial integration was signed. He added that this agreement deals with cooperation in the fields of engineering industry, iron and steel production, and electronic industries.

Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab saw Dr. Ibn-Shatwan off at the airport.

Loan Agreement With Arab Fund Signed 22 Mar

NC2203153590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1351 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—A loan agreement worth 63 million pounds was signed at the International Cooperation Ministry today between Egypt and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD]. The loan will finance the expansion of the [word indistinct] soda factory and the ammonium nitrates project.

Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed for Egypt and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hamad, the AFESD's board chairman, signed for the fund. [passage omitted] Today the AFESD also gave Egypt three grants totaling 6.5 million pounds. [passage omitted]

Austrian Cooperation To Upgrade Military Hardware

JN2203193090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Mar 90 p 6

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Military Production has completed the development of the Soviet (T-55) tank using Egyptian expertise, with a number of them already incorporated into the Armed Forces. The tank is now fitted with a 105-mm gun in place of the 100-mm gun. The tank has also been strengthened with more armor, increasing its life expectancy by a further ten years.

These disclosures were made by Dr. Jamal al-Din al-Sayyid, state minister for military production, following talks with Austria's National Defense Minister Robert Lichal. [passage omitted]

Al-Sayyid said Egypt is cooperating with Austria in upgrading ammunition, guns, and diesel engines dating to back to the sixties. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on Operation of New Oil, Gas Fields

NC2203163890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Matruh, 22 Mar (MENA)—Chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has disclosed that the largest natural gas project in the western desert for natural gas will begin in Badr-al-Din's field No. 3 on 1 June. During a tour of the Badr-al-Din area in the western desert today, Minister Qandil said the project's output will be 125 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

He added that at the beginning of the next fiscal year, the Badr-al-Din field's output will increase from 16,000 to 40,000 barrels of oil per day after fully developing six new discoveries. He noted that the new discoveries have increased the gas reserves in the area to more than three

billion cubic feet. He said these new projects cost $500 million and that the crude oil reserve amounts to 525 million barrels. [passage omitted]

Libya

Editor on 'Al-Qadhdhafi Missiles' Remarks

LD2203193690 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 22. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. war secretary expressed U.S. fear towards the growing military capabilities of Great Jamahiriyah. He said that the U.S. is in desperate need for the space shield not only against the Soviet nulear missiles but also against the possible al-Qadhdhafi missiles.

The U.S. minister supported that fear by the Libyan attack on Lampedosa base which he said that Libya had fired during the attack two missiles against the U.S. military establishments in the Italian island.

JANA's political editor commented on those statements by saying:

What the U.S. secretary had said confirms a series of new data which have become visible now in international relations as a natural result to the changes taken place, and still taking place, in this era. For the struggle rages now between the revolutionary forces—led by the Great al Fatih Revolution—and the Western imperialist forces—led by the USA.

The editor asserted "The enormous changes taking place in some areas in the world recently has crystalized with full clarity that the struggle today has become between the forces of goodness in the south the centre of which is Great Jamahiriyah with all that it means by its social, economic and political drives and between the forces of evil in the north under the leadership of America which are aiming to spread their dangerous and destructive influence over the destinies of nations".

JANA's political editor explained that the scientists of the cultural courses confirm that the idea from which the imperialists drives had began is basically have its destruction within it. [sentence as received]

Today they have become too near from the inevitable end and the final defeat, for now in the horizon the revolutionary aspirations of the crushed masses started to rise and those masses are getting ready with all their forces [to] swoop on all the atheist temples in which the philosophy of the imperialist line lies with all its hating and exploiting ideas and contents.

Great Jamahiriyah is a state for all the masses as it marches in its development path not bothered and do not turn towards the hating imperialist powers, has become a centre of attraction for all the free people and a global resort for resisting the forces of evil and an ideal example for the masses' rule—all the masses away from all forms of the traditional rule which you usurped the will of the nations aspiring liberation and salvation. [sentence as received]

Also our glorious Arab nation, as it is today with all its masses march in its way in all firmness towards building our national structure and to realize its natural state, is getting ready in all firmness and sure determination to fight its grand battle to liberate Arab Palestine from the claws of the Zionist enemy.

Statement 'Fully Recognizes' Republic of Namibia

LD2203145290 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued a statement today:

Stemming from the belief of the people of the Great Socialist People's Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah in the right of the peoples who are suffering from the domination and oppression of colonialism and settlement, and from the suppression of the abominable racial descrimination, to self determination, and out of support for their struggle march to achieve their independence to live free on their sovereign land, and emphasizing the backing of the people of the Great Socialist People's Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah for the rest of the peoples that are still struggling for their liberation, and out of the commitments to African liberation and to the solidarity requirements stipulated by OAU principles to liberate the rest of the continent's peoples from colonialism, and expressing the happiness of the people of the Great Socialist People's Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah over the independence of Namibia and the victory of its heroic people under SWAPO [South West African People's Organization] leadership, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Liaison, entrusted with implementing the resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses in foreign policy, announces that the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah fully recognizes the Republic of Namibia and its sovereignty over its whole land. It would like to wish the new state and its people the realization of all its desires and national goals.

Mauritania

Former Foreign Minister Allegedly Arrested

NC1803150290 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Nouakchott, March 19 (AFP)—Hamdi Ould Mouknass, a former foreign minister of Mauritania, has been arrested by the authorities of the northwest African state, an informed source said.

Mr. Hamdi Ould Mouknass served several times as minister in the governments of President Mokhtar Ould

Daddah, who ruled from independence in 1960 until his overthrow in 1978. There were no details of the reason or circumstances of the arrest.

Government Recognizes New State of Namibia

AB2203180090 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Communique issued by Foreign Affairs Ministry in Nouakchott on 21 March 1990 on the recognition of the Republic of Namibia]

[Text] The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania solemnly recognizes as of today, 21 March 1990, date for the proclamation of its independence, the State of Namibia. Through this proclamation, Mauritania wants to give full effect to this recognition.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania takes this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Mauritanian people and its national leadership, to the heroic brotherly people of Namibia and its patriotic and able leadership, the South-West African People's Organization, for the multiple sacrifices made on the road to independence. It also commends the efforts of the international community, especially those of the United Nations, through its secretary general, the OAU, and all organizations and institutions of goodwill, which helped the brotherly people of Namibia to attain independence and sovereignty.

Gambian, Guinean Heads To Mediate Dispute

AB1903131590 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Nouakchott, March 19 (AFP)—Fresh efforts to heal a long-standing rift between West African neighbors Senegal and Mauritania began here Monday under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity.

Presidents Dawda Jawara of Gambia and Lansana Conte of Guinea arrived for talks with Mauritania's military leader Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. They were due later in the day in Dakar to meet Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. Reliable sources said the mediators would be making no statements until they had conferred with both estranged parties.

A border incident last April involving cultivators and herdsmen sparked off a wave of ethnic slayings in each country in which hundreds died and thousands were repatriated in a large-scale airlift. The two governments continued to trade charges and threats, and diplomatic links were cut in August.

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives for Visit, Makes Statement

LD2203214590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, president of state of Palestine, arrived in Morocco today. He was welcomed at Mohamed V International Airport by Prime Minister Dr. Azeddine Laraki, His Majesty's adviser Ahmed Bensouda, his majesty's governor of Greater Casablanca, and by Abu Marwan, the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Morocco. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat made a statement at the VIP lounge of Mohamed V International Airport in which he tackled the development of the Palestinian issue:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] In fact, we can say with pride that it was a wager made by Israel to cause cracks in the Palestinian ranks [word indistinct] resistance. Sharon's procrastination was aimed at gaining time with a view to eliminating the resistance and the people's blessed uprising. And now, in the 29th month of the uprising the explosion has occurred on the other side. It occurred in the Israeli Government, at the top of the pyramid of the Israeli authority.

The Israeli Government has collapsed, the first time in the history of Israeli governments. It was brought down by two factors: first, the continuation of the blessed uprising of our people; and second, the politicial initiative by the Palestinian National Council which I announced at the United Nations in 1988 in Geneva. The important fact is whether the government has collapsed on the basis of peace or war. Some circles want peace, and others want war.

The Israeli (?public) will determine in the next few days whether it wants war or peace. We must, moreover, point out that those who want war rely on the Jewish emigration which will come to them during the next ten years. This means there will be about three million Soviet Jews which will jeopardize not the Palestinians' security, because Palestine is occupied, but pan-Arab security. This is why His Majesty King Hassan II, who is the chairman of the Jerusalem committee, took the noble initiative of calling the Jerusalem committee to examine the various aspects of this issue at the end of this month, God willing, here in the Kingdom of Morocco, with a view to facing up to all of these imminent dangers to our Arab and Islamic nation, and the Islamic cause. [end recording]

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives in Agadir

LD1703205690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, arrived in Agadir this evening on an official visit to Morocco.

On descending the steps from the aircraft he was received by Prime Minister Dr Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz is accompanied on this visit by an important delegation which consists in particular of His Royal Highness Prince Khalid al-Faysal Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Ibn-Sa'ud Ibn-Muhammad, and other civilian and military officials.

King Hassan Addresses Saharan Delegation 20 Mar

LD2103205290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Speech by King Hassan II to a delegation from the Saharan provinces in Agadir on 20 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] God to be praised, and peace and prayers be on our master, God's messenger, and his family and followers. Gentlemen and loyal subjects inhabitants of our southern provinces, my dear people:

Every time I deliver a speech or address in this city, in this hall in particular, I remember some of the most precious and sacred memories which God enabled me to experience with you gentlemen, with the inhabitants of the southern provinces and with our dear people. They are the memories of the words and stances which enabled us to start the Green March and to restore our dear Saharan provinces.

Today we return to address you, and through you we address our subjects in our southern provinces and our dear people in general.

Gentlemen, you remember that in the throne day speech, which we delivered from Agadir, as usual we talked about a number of issues. Some of them were related to our foreign policies, some to our regional policies—I mean in the Greater Arab Maghreb—and some to our internal life, our daily life. This daily life must not be a routine one. We must receive every day God gives us with a new spirit, with renewed enthusiasm, and with an innovative spirit. [passage omitted]

In the throne day speech, which we made, we told you that the economic, or monetary, situation in Morocco would make us wait for 1990 with the necessary caution and seriousness. On the other hand, we said we should distinguish between the monetary side and the economic side. The body of Morocco—thanks be to God—is a strong one, its muscles are strong, its wealth exists, and its readiness is continuing. However, the whole world, and I say all the world, will witness some difficulties and some troubles this year.

This is due to a number of reasons. The first of these reasons are related to energy and to the rise in prices. Some of these reasons are related to the drought which occurred in the large countries which feed the world in general. Some of them are also related to the fact that the World Bank and the international banks have found new customers, in addition to their traditional customers, which are all the European and the non-European countries which have left the socialist system for the liberal system. These countries used to rely neither on the IMF nor on the World Bank nor on the international banks for loans. They have become customers—customers which enjoy special relations because of the religion, language, and neighborhood ties.

All these things will make the world think seriously and carefully about the most suitable way to get out of this corner, which I describe as difficult but not impossible, hazardous, or dangerous, nor which calls for despair or optimism.

I always say that I am optimistic, always optimistic. Every responsible official should maintain a minimum of optimism. If you are not optimistic then the responsible job will become futile.

Here I would like to repeat to you that the coming steps in the economic field will be built on a few but prominent and firm foundations. First, we must preserve, and we will continue to preserve the dignity of the Moroccan citizen. This could be done by making sure that we do not violate his purchasing power. This is necessary. Second, on expenditure, we will follow a course which will make us distinguish between what is necessary and urgent, and what can wait. Third, by our efforts and God's help, we will try to follow the road of growth so that our economic resources do not dry up. For more than 25 years we have been working to make these resources grow, prosper, and bear fruit. To economize is not to stop. Austerity is not cutting back blindly until the country becomes cut off from its wealth and its future interests. Austerity and economizing mean using a medicine in the right place and at the right time.

Here I say and repeat: I understand. All my life I have never told you, dear people, a single untrue word, as I always made frankness and sincerity in word and in deed the basis of my work and the motives of my word and effort. Why did I choose this occasion or take this opportunity to say these words? First, because it was necessary to follow up the throne day speech with some explanations. Second, because I find myself here today in a part of our dear peaceful Kingdom, which God loves, and this part of the Kingdom is very sensitive to anything related to economy, trade, or money.

Therefore, we all have to mobilize ourselves. The state has to be mobilized. The localities have to be mobilized. The Moroccan capital has to be mobilized. The regional groups have to be mobilized.

Gentlemen, you know our tendency toward privatization. Our tendency toward privatization is a necessary promotion of the Moroccan economic person. We are not abandoning what we are going to privatize because we would like to save money. No. We would like to create the Moroccan businessman who will have to face up to the challenges of the coming decades.

If we dedicate our energies from all our provinces and regions, and our money, and if we take into consideration the legal and administrative facilities which we have put at the disposal and service of the investors, the private sector will be able to do many many things without a loss; on the contrary, with a great long-term profit.

You, the inhabitants of our southern provinces, in particular, are known for your hard and serious work, for your bravery, for your innovative spirit. You have to go into this field. You have to educate yourselves and your sons for this. I know that you are quite committed to educating your sons. I know that all the people in our southern provinces do their best to educate their sons so that they succeed in their economic and trade activities. Therefore, you have to educate yourselves and your sons to look for a small but long-term profit, to engage in national not local projects, and to invest your money in your country in projects of undoubted profit.

If the economic efforts of our regions and provinces from the north to the south are united I am sure that we will overcome the obstacles. [passage omitted]

I am confident that the monetary side is a mere technicality. However, I say that I will never allow myself or the officials to include among the aims of this austerity, toward which we are moving, the reduction of the purchasing power of those on moderate salaries. Before anything I preserve the dignity, I value and appreciate the dignity of man, I defend the dignity of man, and I defend the prosperity of everyone, especially those on an income which is not high.

We have decided to implement these measures, which we are studying, God willing this month and next month. This is in order to know, and in order that you, my dear people, know which way we are heading, which method we have chosen in our course, and toward which goals we are marching.

I would like to express again to the inhabitants of these provinces my appreciation of their happiness with my stay here and with throne day. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PLO Chairman

LD2103220290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had a meeting with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Foreign Minister Ismail Khalil; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the PLO Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

Indonesia's Alatas Meets With Ben Ali, Officials

BK2103075890 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0703 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 21 (ANTARA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has expressed the wish to invite Indonesian President Suharto for talks on the promotion of South-South dialogues, the Tunisian Embassy in a press statement said here Wednesday [21 March].

The Tunisian president expressed his wish when receiving Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on the second day of the latter's three-day official visit to Tunisia, beginning March 16.

Alatas who carried a message from President Suharto for the Tunisian president, cochaired a Tunisian-Indonesian working session with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ismail Khalil, on the first day of his visit in the country.

Both parties discussed ways and means likely to promote economic cooperation between the two countries.

On Friday evening, Khalil offered a dinner in honour of Alatas. In an exchange of toasts, the two ministers stressed the will of their respective countries to boost their cooperation ties.

On the second day, he was received by President Ben Ali who expressed the wish to welcome President Suharto in Tunisia very soon. He underscored the need to set up a fruitful cooperation between ASEAN and UMA (Union of the Maghreb Arab) which includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

Ben Ali told Alatas that Tunisia and Indonesia, which presently assume the presidency of the two regional organizations, could promote a South-South dialogue.

Alatas also met with high Tunisian officials and in particular the Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, and the President of the Tunisian Parliament Slaheddine Baly.

On the third day, he made a tour in other cities of Tunisia, Sousse and Kairouan.

Maghreb Television Channel Inaugurated 20 Mar

LD2103173590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tunisia's celebration of independence day was coupled with another event at the Maghreb level: the inauguration of the programs on the Maghreb television channel this evening from the Tunisian Radio and Television House which devotes its programs to the various productions of Maghreb television networks. They are being transmitted on Channel 5.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Cited on Lebanon, Emigration

PM2003121290 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Mar 90 pp 22-23

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarah Al Khalifah by unidentified correspondent in Bahrain; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: How do you view the Lebanese crisis and the efforts made to settle it?

Al Khalifah: Lebanon compliments the Arab world. The Arab nation would be incomplete without it, because it is a vital part of the general Arab picture. [passage omitted]

I believe the al-Ta'if conference was a significant political turning point in the history of the Arabs, because the Arab nation has—for the first time, unanimously and with all its power—fully entrusted the leaders of the tripartite committee with the task of resolving the crisis in that fraternal country, and their efforts have been fruitful. True, we still are only halfway there, but we have come a long way, and now the public increasingly supports the al-Ta'if agreement and its objectives. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are you in favor of an Arab summit conference on Lebanon?

Al Khalifah: Such a summit is necessary but, if it is to produce results, good preparations must be made for it. King Husayn is working for an Arab summit conference. The Lebanese situation is bound to be one of the main issues it will discuss. Perhaps the efforts will culminate in preparations for a summit conference which could be conducted next mon'. It undoubtedly will tackle the question of salvaging Lebanon.

A-HAWADITH: Is there a possibility of using Arab military forces to pave the way to a solution?

Al Khalifah: Everything is possible if we take the right steps, proceeding from real conditions, not from the political stances of each state. If 10 surgeons treated a patient each in his own way, the patient certainly would die because of their disagreement. If they agreed on one treatment, however, the patient would be cured. We want the same diagnosis and treatment. I am optimistic, and the Arabs now feel the Lebanese situation could spread and extend beyond Lebanon if it is not urgently remedied. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about the transfer of the Arab League Headquarters to Cairo, its original location?

Al Khalifah: As the Arab League Charter stipulates, Cairo is the league's headquarters. Because of certain political circumstances, it was moved to the fraternal state of Tunisia, which provided commendable assistance during the period it hosted the Arab League. Today the circumstances certainly have changed. The move will be completed in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere. We in Bahrain do not want this matter to cause any sensitivities between two fraternal states. This is a matter that concerns all the Arab family. A few days ago the Arab foreign ministers decided to move the Arab League Headquarters back to Cairo and to keep some Arab institutions in Tunisia. The matter will be submitted to the next Arab League session in September.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Middle East question, in the light of the intifadah and the talk about settlement of Soviet Jews?

Al Khalifah: No one, however arrogant or biased, can stand in the way of the great, powerful intifadah or its achievements as a national movement which everyone responds to and supports, particularly since Israel's ugly colonialist face has been revealed, contrary to Israeli claims. [passage omitted]

Regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews, it will have very negative effects on the peace negotiations. It even could halt the negotiations. What peace could there be on a land where other people are being settled? It does not lend credence to any dialogue. Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, however, is not new. Israel and its supporters long have had a strategy on this and have urged the Soviet Union to allow Jews to emigrate in large numbers; but the Arab world did not really study this issue, nor did it have a counter strategy to ward off this danger, though it did not come as a surprise. Why don't the Arabs draw up a collective plan against the dangers of this emigration to which the doors have now been flung wide open?

AL-HAWADITH: Will the Soviet Union's call for a Security Council meeting on this matter lessen the dangers of immigration?

Al Khalifah: The Security Council must discuss this issue because the Security Council is responsible for world peace and for the implementation of international agreements. The Geneva convention is explicit and clear on this. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Gulf war: Is it over, or are there still some residual factors and fears of setbacks?

Al Khalifah: The Gulf war has ended, and we hope this end is final. We hope peace—not just a cease-fire—will prevail. There is an international resolution accepted by all parties, and it must be implemented to the letter. What is even more important than the resolution is trust between the two countries, because any resolution or agreement is of no value without such trust. We in the region are endeavoring to promote such trust, and President Saddam Husayn's recent initiative falls within that context of confidence building. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Has Gulf military cooperation reached the stage of integration, and could it lead to the creation of a joint command for the Gulf armies?

Al Khalifah: We have reached an advanced stage, but not yet the stage of a unified command, but we are on the way. We have begun unifying military terminology and coordination on types of weaponry. We have formed a unified rapid deployment force. We have done a lot, but we have not yet reached the stage of a joint command. We hope, however, to reach that point soon, God willing.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe there is a need to reduce the U.S. naval forces in the Gulf now that the Iraq-Iran war has ended and security prevails, bearing in mind the U.S. Administration announced its intention to reduce these forces?

Al Khalifah: I believe the U.S. naval forces in the Gulf have been reduced. They are not as extensive as they were during the war.

Saudi Arabia

Communique on Visit of Oman's Sultan Issued

LD2203153290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 22 Mar (SPA)—A joint communique was issued today on the results of the visit of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to the Kingdom. Here is the text:

From the premise of the solid and firm relations, in expression of the fraternal and strong relations and bonds, in consolidation of the march of Arab cooperation, in response to the invitation addressed by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, servant of the two holy places and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabic, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, paid an official visit to the Kingdom 20 to 22 March 1990.

His majesty [HM] was accorded a warm official welcome which sincerely expressed the authenticity of the ancient historic relations between the two countries and their fraternal peoples.

Within the framework of sincere fraternity, complete understanding, and eagerness to consolidate Arab cooperation in general and the close cooperation between the two countries in particular, talks took place between the two monarchs which were characterized by the spirit of complete mutual trust, which were dominated by conformity of views on all subjects covered by the talks, in which a number of senior officials on both sides took part.

At the level of bilateral relations, both sides noted with extreme satisfaction the steady development in all the fields of cooperation between them.

In confirmation of the distinguished strong and fraternal relations between the two sister countries, and from the premise of the joint communique issued following King Fahd's visit to his brother HM Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id 21 to 23 December 1989, which announced the two monarchs' agreement on the demarcation of the borders between the two sister countries, the signing of the agreement on the international borders between the two sister countries took place during this visit.

The two monarchs also reviewed the progress of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] from all aspects and the means for its development in line with the objectives embodied by the Basic Statute of the council and expressed their satisfaction with its prominent role in the consolidation of the cohesion and joint action and the results that have been achieved through it, which have had a positive reflection on the security, stability, and prosperity of the region.

The two monarchs discussed the development of the peace talks between Iraq and Iran in light of Security Council Resolution 598, and expressed their support for and appreciation of the efforts exerted by the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and of his efforts to remove the obstacles to these talks so as to reach a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the conflict between the two sides, a matter which would lead to the establishment of peace and security in the region. They expressed their satisfaction at both sides' adherence to the achievement of a lasting peace between them.

The monarchs urged the Security Council and in particular its permanent members to back those efforts and support them with all available means, including direct talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general, and the release of the prisoners of war and their return to their homeland without delay, to put an end to their suffering and the suffering of their families, a matter which would achieve balanced benefits and interests for both sides, thus contributing to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and the Third Geneva accord for 1949 on the treatment of prisoners of war.

The two monarchs reviewed the Palestinian issue and its developments and the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the East European countries to the occupied Arab territories, and they condemned the Israeli enemy's policy of bringing the immigrants in and settling them in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories and dispersing the Palestinian people from their territories and soil.

The two sides appealed to the Soviet Union and the East European countries to cooperate with the Arab countries in adopting the necessary measures to stop the settlement of the Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

The two sides expressed their support for the popular uprising in the occupied territories until it achieves its aims. They also expressed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

They expressed their condemnation of the inhuman Israeli practices and Israel's disregard of the legitimate

rights and aspirations of the struggling Palestinian people. They called on the international community to adopt a firm stand toward the Israeli policies which defy international opinion, international law, and UN resolutions.

They stressed that convening the international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the attendance of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the sides of the conflict, including the PLO, on equal footing is the formula accepted by the international community for establishing permanent, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The two sides discussed the situation in Lebanon, especially in light of the new events in the Lebanese arena since the eruption of the recent regrettable clashes. They expressed their deep sorrow and extreme regrets for the tragedies and destruction caused by these clashes, whose price was paid by innocent citizens and which defy all efforts and initiatives to turn a new leaf in preparation for the emergence of a new era in Lebanon based on legitimacy and reconciliation, and in which security, peace, and stability prevail, especially after the march of peace began its first practical steps through the continuous Arab efforts exerted with the cooperation of all the sides concerned with the Lebanese crisis.

Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id expressed his extreme appreciation for the effective and intensive efforts exerted by the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee within the context of implementation of the resolution of the Casablanca summit conference concerning the search for a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis. HM praised in particular the big role shouldered by King Fahd in this respect.

Both sides urged Lebanese citizens of all sects and affiliations to preserve the gains contained in the national reconciliation document which was issued unanimously by all the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if, and to rally around legitimacy in its capacity as the certain means of extricating Lebanon from its ordeal and reducing the sufferings and pains of its people, and as the certain guarantee for Lebanon's unity and the consecration of its freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

The two monarchs also considered with extreme interest the developments and events being witnessed by the world, and expressed their hope international relaxation will lead to the ending of tension, the removal of the causes of splits in the world, and the finding of just solutions to regional conflicts and in particular the problems of the Middle East, and that the world will witness closer economic cooperation based on the mutual interests which will consolidate the economic development programs in developing countries.

Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id expressed his extreme appreciation of King Fahd for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him, and his admiration for the landmarks of comprehensive progress being witnessed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

HM also addressed an invitation to his brother King Fahd to visit the Sultanate of Oman, which he accepted with gratitude and promised to carry out as soon as possible.

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Salih

JN2203195790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this morning Saparmurad Niyazov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, and first secretary of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan, and his delegation currently visiting our country.

The brother president welcomed the Soviet parliamentary delegation. He referred to the historical relations binding the two friendly countries and to the continuous development of relations. He reviewed current steps in the Yemeni arena to achieve the reunification of Yemen to fulfill the aspirations of our Yemeni people for unity, progress, and prosperity. He said Yemeni unity constitutes an important and fundamental factor in regional security and stability. The brother president added that the changes in the Soviet Union under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have enhanced world security and stability and paved the way for further economic and social progress for the good and prosperity of mankind.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews, the brother president said our country does not oppose their emigration anywhere in the world, but our objection stems from the fact this emigration is taking place at the expense of the Arab land and people in occupied Palestine. He said that as a result, the international community must assume its responsibilities toward the Palestinian Arab people and their national legitimate rights.

The deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium expressed his happiness and that of his delegation to be meeting with the brother president. He praised the advanced Yemeni-Soviet relations. He voiced his congratulations and those of the Soviet people to our leadership and the Yemeni people for the unity steps taken in the Yemeni arena to achieve Yemeni reunification and fulfill the aspirations of our Yemeni people. He praised the developments in our country and said they reflect the progress of the Yemeni revolution toward achieving the hopes and aspirations of the Yemeni masses.

The brother president asked the Soviet official to convey his greetings to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, wishing him continued health, good fortune, and success, and the Soviet people progress and prosperity.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and Arab and international developments were reviewed. The meeting was attended by Brother Sa'id al-Hakimi, Consultative Council secretary, and Veniamin Popov, the USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

Prime Minister Returns From Aden Joint Session

JN2203204690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Tex] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, returned to Sanaa this evening after attending the second session of the two cabinets in the Yemeni homeland, held in Aden from 20 to 22 March. Seeing him off on departure from Aden airport were brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister in the southern part of the homeland, cabinet ministers, and Central Committee members.

Earlier today, the second joint meeting of the cabinets of the two parts of the homeland made decisions concerning draft laws completed during the first and second meetings of the joint council of ministers and on bylaws and organizational structures of ministries, corporations, public authorities, and social security administrations in the unity state.

President Salih Approves 1990 State Budget

JN2203203690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has approved Law No. 5 of 1990 on the state's general budget for fiscal year 1990. The following is the text of the law:

The president of the Republic, taking cognizance of the permanent Constitution and Presidential Decree No. 31 of 1974 on the establishment and organization of the Finance Ministry and on defining its tasks, and the amendments of this law; and Law No. 6 of 1980 on defining the beginning and end of the state's fiscal year; and after the Council of Ministers' approval, the Consultative Council has approved the aforementioned law, we approve and issue this law:

Article 1: The revenues of the state budget for 1990 are estimated at 19,685,440,000 riyals, according to table A.

Article 2: The expenditures of the state budget for fiscal year 1990 are estimated at 24,849,570,000 riyals, according to table B.

Article 3: The net deficit in the state budget for fiscal year 1990 is estimated at 5,163,635,000 riyals.

Article 4: The rules governing implementation of the state budget for fiscal year 1990, as attached to this law, and the notes cited in the budget statement, shall be considered a complementary part of this law. All the units of the administrative apparatus of the state shall abide by the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 5: The finance minister shall issue the necessary instructions to implement this law within the framework of its provisions.

Article 6: This law shall be effective as of 1 January 1990, and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidential office in Sanaa on 25 Sha'ban 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 22 March 1990.

[Signed] Col. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President of the Republic, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and Secretary General of the General People's Congress

Reaction to Halt of Hungarian Flights Reported

Soviet Pressure Denied

TA2303062990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Mar 90 pp 1, 15

[Report from Washington by Wolf Blitzer, from Moscow by Walter Ruby, and from Jerusalem by Herb Keinon and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Hungary's national airlines, Malev, yesterday cancelled charter flights bringing Soviet immigrants to Israel because of a bomb threat, the Hungarian embassy said. In response, Israel has asked the Bush administration to intervene with the Hungarian government to make sure that regularly-scheduled direct flights from Budapest to Tel Aviv are not suspended.

"The Hungarian airline has stopped its chartered flights to Israel because the Islamic Jihad threatened the airline, saying that it would blow up its planes," said Ganos Vvari, third secretary at the Hungarian embassy in Tel Aviv.

Vvari said a bomb threat from Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, a little-known underground group in Lebanon, was received on March 16 and officials of Malev in Budapest decided to suspend the charter flights as of yesterday. [passage omitted]

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov yesterday denied that Soviet pressure led Hungary to discontinue charter flights out of Moscow.

Asked whether there had been Soviet input into Malev's decision to cancel the flights, Gerasimov told THE JERUSALEM POST: "We have nothing to do with a decision taken by Malev, an independent aviation company. We ourselves do not have regular flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv, and do not plan to organize such flights, with the rare exception of collective flights of sportsmen and other (official groups)." [passage omitted]

Nativ, Netanyahu Comment

TA2303063890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Soviet airline Aeroflot has reportedly stopped selling tickets to Jewish immigrants flying via Budapest to Israel—this apparently after an appeal by the Hungarian state airline Malev, which suspended charter flights on Wednesday after receiving terrorist threats from the Islamic Jihad organization.

Jewish Agency Director Moshe Nativ has expressed regret over the decision, but says it is possible that the total number of flights from Moscow to Budapest will not be affected. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu denounced as a terrorist blackmail the Islamic Jihad's threats of attacking flights that bring Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel via Hungary. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 23 March, in a related report by Avraham Ben-Melekh, adds that "political sources have said that the Likud and the Alignment will have to unite in a demand that the peace process and the Cairo talks be conditioned on stopping the Arab struggle against aliyah. The PLO is leading the political arm of the struggle against Jewish emigration, while the Islamic Jihad is responsible for making the threats. The political sources have called for an unequivocal demand that the Americans take steps to stop the Arab pressure."]

Shamir Reacts; Contacts Begun

TA2303085590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister has begun a series of discussions on the state of Soviet aliyah and conferred yesterday with the professional level that deals with this subject. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh has learned that Mr. Shamir expressed his concern about the cancellation of charter flights for new immigrants from the USSR to Israel via Budapest.

Israel, through diplomatic channels, currently is engaged in contacts with Hungary to examine the meaning of this move and determine whether difficulties are expected for immigrants who come through Budapest on regular El Al or Malev, the Hungarian airline, flights. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 23 March adds "the Hungarian move is believed to be linked to the general elections scheduled to take place there next week. Anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish elements are believed to have been involved in the cancellation of the charter flights."]

Shamir Under Pressure To Quit Likud Leadership

TA2103133090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 90 p A1

[By party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Last night at the Likud's top level, pressure increased on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to quit the Likud leadership and allow another candidate to consolidate a majority which could bring about the establishment of a Likud-led government at the last minute. Senior Likud members last night asserted that the removal of Shamir had now become imperative since his continued leadership would shortly lead to the Likud's disintegration in the opposition.

Minister David Levi summoned his associates to an urgent session today. Already last night pressure was being exerted on Levi to openly call for the replacement of Shamir. Nevertheless, Levi has, for the time being, decided not to voice his intentions in public. People close to Levi yesterday began collecting signatures for a request to summon an urgent session of the Likud Central Committee with the aim of unseating Shamir.

Nevertheless, Levi's associates believe the Likud will not carry out an internal reshuffle without Shamir's approval.

Last night Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not show any sign that he intends to quit the Likud leadership. He decided to summon all the Likud ministers who are Inner Cabinet members as well as Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon—the Likud negotiating team—to a meeting this morning to discuss the action to be taken to thwart Peres' attempts to form a government.

Likud members last night stayed in contact with the religious parties which have been supporting the Likud in the last few days to make sure that they do not lend a hand to the establishment of a government led by Peres. Senior Likud members last night emphasized that within a few days, as soon as they recover from the president's decision, the settling of personal scores will begin.

A harsh reaction is expected to be taken, first and foremost, against Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and his Liberal buddies in view of the president's statement last night that he had also taken into account the fact that the Labor Party is the largest Knesset faction.

Top Likud members yesterday said that the Likud currently has two important and urgent tasks on its agenda: To eliminate SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and to end the political careers of Moda'i and his four cronies whom the Likud sees as traitors.

Peres Government Capable of Promoting Peace

TA2203114090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 90 p 19

[Commentary by Arye Na'or: "What Peres Can Do"]

[Text] Coming out of the president's residence, Shim'on Peres said if he succeeds in forming a new government, the peace process will be its central goal, along with security and the absorption of immigration. In view of the absence of national accord on the peace process, will he be able to carry out his policy?

There have been some who have said only a Likud-led government can promote peace, because only the Likud can sanction the necessary concessions. This sophisticated assumption ignores the Likud's adherence to its ideology. As long as the Likud does not undergo an ideological revolution—and there are no signs such a revolution is to be expected soon—it always will find a reason, whether substantive of administrative, to reject every proposal to promote the peace process. Not because it does not desire peace, but because it is unwilling to pay the price.

The Alignment, as is well known, is willing to pay the price, but there are some who doubt its ability to implement a vigorous peace policy because of the aggressive opposition expected from the Likud. This assumption does not rely on a firm factual foundation, either. First of all, it should be taken into account that several internal changes certainly will take place in the Likud after a Peres government is formed. The internal struggle that will develop in that party will paralyze it on the public and parliamentary fronts and will promote the Tehiya and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] as an alternative to the Likud in the next elections—particularly if SHAS becomes a partner in a Peres government and is able to control funds for institutions whose political survival depends on their economic prosperity.

Second, if the peace progress is marked by success—in other words, if Jordan returns to center stage, or if the modalities of elections proposed by Shamir are finally agreed on—a change in Israeli public opinion is to be expected. This nation wants peace, but it has good reasons to suspect its enemies of not seriously entertaining peaceful intentions. History is full of similar situations. Some time after President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Moshe Dayan explained why it was necessary to amend the government resolution, which had been adopted upon his recommendation 10 years earlier, on the need to maintain territorial continuity down to Sharm al-Shaykh. "When I said Sharm is more important than peace with Egypt, peace did not seem attainable," said Dayan, "but now everything has changed."

All those whose stand on the issue of Greater Israel does not stem from unshakable faith, but who are moved by an evaluation of the security situation and by doubts of the Arabs' willingness to make peace, may change their mind as a result of the dynamics of the peace process and the public relations campaign that will accompany it. If, after conducting peace negotiations, the Peres government submits the agreements for the people's approval through elections—as the Labor Party had in the past promised the National Religious Party to do—it will stand a chance of winning the elections and pursuing its path.

Historians of the future perhaps will attribute such a development to the change Peres has effected in his party's attitude toward the ultraorthodox community, to its rights and needs. This is the source of the revolution we may be undergoing at present. Without this change, Peres would have no chance of forming a government. Owing to this change, he has a chance to leave his mark on the state for many years to come.

Hammer Attempts To Stop Narrow-Based Coalition

TA2203172990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer is attempting to establish an orthodox religious bloc to preclude the forming of a narrow-based government.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Hammer has approached Israel's chief rabbis, as well as Rabbi Schach and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, and other important rabbis and spiritual leaders from among the ultraorthodox public regarding this matter.

Sources in the NRP [National Religious Party] estimate that, if this initiative succeeds, the establishment of a national unity government with a rotation of the premiership would be feasible.

Degel Hatora, SHAS Spiritual Leader 'Dovish'

TA2203205890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Sources close to Rabbi Schach [spiritual leader of Degel Hatora and co-founder of SHAS, Torah Observing Sephardim] assert the rabbi's political ideology is unreservedly dovish. They claim he is even more moderate than the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement]. Rabbi Schach believes the fate of the territories of Eretz Yisra'el eventually will be decided by the Washington administration. The administration will get its way either by persuasive means or by exerting pressure. It therefore is of no import whether it is the Likud or the Labor Party which heads the government. When faced with that question, however, the rabbi leans on experience. He remembers the Likud under Menahem Begin agreed to give up all the Sinai Peninsula in return for peace, despite all its rhetoric about not withdrawing from an inch of land. Rabbi Schach subsequently infers that a government which does not include the Likud may lead to internal dissension and even bloodshed within the Israeli people, were it to make territorial concessions. Although a government headed by the Likud would also be forced to forgo territory, the Israeli people would accept such a concession. Rabbi Schach ordered Degel Hatora to back the Likud. Sources close to him implied if SHAS failed to obey him, he would abandon them. Rabbi Schach has made no effort to conceal his distaste for all secular political parties. [passage omitted]

Contacts With Soviet Aviation Industry Ministry

TA2203122590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 90 p C6

[By Avi Gan'or]

[Text] Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] will participate in the first Soviet air show, scheduled to open on 1 September in Moscow. The Soviets have sent a formal invitation to the Israel Export Institute, and IAI representatives will be included in the Israeli delegation.

Initial contact between the Israel Export Institute and officials of the Soviet Aviation Industry Ministry was made some two weeks ago during an international show in Singapore. Members of the Soviet delegation from the Avia Export [name as published] Company, which manufactures the MiG and the Sukhoi-27, met with Israeli representatives of the Export Institute and the IAI and proposed industrial cooperation with Israeli aviation manufacturers. They also were interested in acting as agents for IAI products in the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the Soviets expressed interest in purchasing technology and in upgrading the existing planes' avionic standards.

Shamir, FRG Officials Discuss Improving Ties

TA2203102190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Mar 90 p 10

[By David Makovsky]

[Text] In an apparent effort to mend frayed relations, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told a visiting delegation of West German parliamentarians Tuesday that Israel wants to improve further its ties with that country.

Shamir told the visiting members of the Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee that Israel wants to improve both political and economic links with Europe, and cited Israeli ties with the U.S. as the prime model, sources in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Shamir added that he hoped West Germany would serve as an advocate for stronger links between Israel and Europe.

Shamir reportedly thanked West Germany for its role in helping torpedo recent efforts of the European Parliament and European Community to impose science-related sanctions upon Israel.

In an apparent reference to a sizeable margin in this week's East German vote for quick reunification, Shamir said West Germany played a positive role in the revolutionary changes that transformed Eastern Europe. "It occurred not just as a result of the failure of the communist system," sources quoted Shamir as saying.

Last November, Shamir and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl exchanged angry letters on the subject of German reunification, after Shamir expressed Jewish anxieties about such a move.

Five-Year Plan on Immigrant Settlement Detailed

TA2303073390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Mar 90 p 1

[By Avraham Rabinovich]

[Text] Soviet immigrants will be concentrated in the Karmi'ei-Ma'alot-Migdal Ha'emet area, in Beersheba and in a new city to be built at Modi'in, under a five-year proposal by government planners made available to THE JERUSALEM POST.

An inter-ministerial planning team is proposing that only 40-45 per cent of new immigrants be accommodated on the coastal plain.

The new town at Modi'in would be built east of Ramla on the edge of the Green Line, inside Israel proper. Jerusalem would get 9 per cent of the immigration during the next decade.

The proposal is expected to be submitted to relevant ministers for approval within the next few weeks.

GPO Issues Report on Fatah-Linked 'Terrorism'

TA2203200390 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 22 Mar 90

[Text] Jerusalem, 22 March 1990 (The GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE)

1. During 1989, 3,203 attacks were carried out within Israel (including Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district) and on its borders, causing the death of 32 Israelis and injury to 86. This is compared to 2,927 attacks during 1988 in which 13 Israelis were killed and 169 wounded.

2. During 1989 there was an increase in the number of attacks in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza as well as within the "Green Line" and Jerusalem—3,170 attacks compared to 2,867 in '88. The increase of attacks in Jerusalem stands out—356 in '89 compared to 223 in '88.

3. During '89, 612 hostile terrorist rings were uncovered, of them 281 were local rings. Among them stands out Fatah/'Arafat, which was behind 200 of the rings uncovered.

4. It should be emphasized that additional organizations belonging to the PLO are among these rings. There were 37 rings whose members belonged to the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine], and 22 belonged to the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. This information stands out in light of the small weight of rings belonging to the Salvation Front.

(Jibril - 2, Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]—3, Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] - 2).

5. This year a relatively high number of rings belonging to extreme Islamic organizations have also been discovered—for example 24 belonging to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and 28 belonging to the Islamic Jihad.

6. Since 'Arafat's declaration (15.12.88), 106 rings which have had contact with Fatah abroad,(mostly in Jordan), have been uncovered. Among them, 78 had contact with these elements after 'Arafat's declaration. (12 of the rings were operated by units of the Islamic Jihad, formerly named the Organization Committee '77).

7. Of the 78 organizations which had contact with Fatah elements abroad after 'Arafat's declaration, 37 were involved in the perpetration of 173 attacks according to the following breakdown:

a. 22 shooting attacks.
b. 23 explosive devices.
c. 4 hand grenades.
d. 40 molotov cocktails.
e. 62 attacks (mostly against alleged cooperators).
f. 22 attacks against property (including 19 arson attacks).
g. Geographical Breakdown of Attacks:
—13 were carried out within the "Green Line" including an attack in Jerusalem.
—129 in Judaea and Samaria.
—31 in Gaza.

It should be emphasized that all the attacks carried out within the "Green Line" were against civilian targets.

h. Breakdown of Targets:
—26 against military targets
—36 against Israeli civilian targets.
—111 against local targets (mostly against alleged collaborators).

i. Breakdown of Characteristics of Attacks Within the "Green Line":
—9 explosive devices.
—1 hand grenade.
—1 attack.
—2 molotov cocktails.

8. There has been a decrease in the number of border attacks: During '89 there were 33 attempts to infiltrate the border (20 on the Lebanese border, 11 on the Jordanian border, 2 on the Egyptian border), compared to 50 attempts in '88.

9. Fatah/'Arafat refrained from committing attacks along the Lebanese border, on the other hand, the Democratic and Popular Fronts as well as the PFLP continued with their policy of attacks. These organizations led in the number of border attacks (13 attacks).

10. In contrast to the Lebanese front, Fatah/'Arafat was involved in two infiltration incidents on the Egyptian border:

a. An attempt to attack an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost. The ring was most probably recruited by Fatah activists in Egypt (Feb. '89).

b. An attempt by a ring numbering five terrorists to attack and kill inside Israel by infiltrating through the region of Nahal Taqif. The ring was sent by a Gaza region activist belonging to Fatah/'Arafat, probably with the knowledge of the organization's leaders, but the organization did not take public responsibility for the attack (Dec. '89).

11. The relative weight of border attacks perpetrated by rings belonging to the PLO stands out in light of the absence of this kind of attack by militant groups, such as Jibril's PFLP and Abu-Musa's organization which did not commit any attacks, and Abu-Nidal's organization which carried out two attacks.

12. During '89 there was an increase in the number of attacks carried out across the Jordanian border (11 attacks this year compared to one in '88). Three out of ten attacks were carried out by Habash's PFLP and the remaining eight were carried out by Jordanian soldiers and civilians who operated independently.

13. At the same time, there was a decrease in the number of attacks carried out abroad, compared to the same period the previous year (18 attacks compared to 41 in '88). Jewish and Israeli targets were the goal of 9 attacks in '89 compared to 16 in '88. Attacks against this type of target in '89 were sporadic, most were carried out by unidentified elements. The murder of the president of the Belgian Jewish community was the only one which resulted in loss of life.

14. The most blatant phenomenon in '89 was the absence of Jibril and Abu-Nidal—two of the most active terrorist organizations in '88 from the terrorism arena abroad.

15. Fatah/'Arafat as well as the rest of the organizations belonging to the PLO (such as the Popular and Democratic Fronts) continued with their policy of refraining from carrying out attacks abroad.

16. It should be emphasized that the discovery of terrorist infrastructures belonging to Habash's PFLP in Denmark, and to the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front in Italy, both supported by local elements, demonstrates a logistical ability and indicates future intentions of using such an infrastructure.

Khan Yunus Man 200th Victim of 'Fellow Arabs'

TA2103190590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] In the territories, 40-year-old Ahmad Abu-Musabah, from Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip was killed this afternoon. He was shot in the head twice by a pistol. Local residents say the man was known for cooperating with the authorities. Security sources say he was the 200th Palestinian to be killed by fellow Arabs since the start of the intifadah. They say about 600 Palestinians have been wounded for allegedly helping Israel in the same period.

The curfew imposed on Qalqilyah after disturbances was lifted this afternoon.

Two Youths Killed in Nabulus; Two More Captured

TA2203133190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Two youths were killed in Nabulus during a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol, and two others were caught.

An IDF spokesman reported one of the suspects held a hand grenade while his companion attempted to attack the soldiers. One of the dead men had long been a fugitive, and according to our correspondent Arye Gus, he had been wanted since the beginning of the intifadah. He was suspected of the murder and assault of local residents, and of planning to kidnap IDF soldiers and attack Israeli public figures. The identity of the second dead man still has not been ascertained.

The two youths who were captured were found in the course of searches conducted following the altercation. During the searches a 9-mm. pistol was discovered. One of the arrested men formerly belonged to the Black Panther gang and was involved, among other deeds, in the brutal murders of seven local residents.

Paper Warns Against Corruption 'Witch Hunt'

JN2203075690 Amman THE STAR in English 22-28 Mar 90 p 12

["Our Say..." column: "Coming of Age"]

[Text] The closed session of the Lower House of Parliament which took place on Tuesday and was dedicated to discussing a report on financial and administrative corruption in public institutions, is a landmark in the role and function of the elected deputies in this country. The sensitivity of the issue necessitated a secret session, but Jordanians from all walks of life will monitor the developments of this extremely important subject with great interest.

The session also marked a positive evolution in the relation between the legislative and the executive bodies, since one of the highlights of the return to democratic system of government in Jordan has been the reinstatement of an effective elected body to act as a watchdog over public establishments. While corruption and mismanagment was mostly an isolated occurrence in previous Jordanian governments and not a rampant phenomenon, the need for an independent body to check illegal and unethical actions of government officials is a legitimate one in any modern state.

What needs to be addressed at this stage are the causes behind previous crimes against public interest. The Lower House, in co-operation with the government, should work out a system of checks and balances to prevent future misuse of public funds or abuse of official positions. The damage rendered by past irresponsible officials was heavy compared with the Kingdom's limited means and special economic situation. The present economic crisis is partly due to cases of mismanagement, corruption and irresponsible actions on the part of senior government officials.

For the democratic process to be complete, the judicial body must function independently to determine the innocence or guilt of officials involved. This too will be watched by Jordanians with great interest since the main demand by Jordan electorates in last November elections was that cases of corruption be investigated by the House and culprits be brought to justice.

Still one must not forget the purpose behind the democratic process. For it to work efficiently and successfully, democracy must be allowed to function in a proper manner. The current investigations into corruption must not be allowed to be turned into a witch hunt, which may have negative impacts on the country's social structure. The three estates must be allowed to work freely and independently each in its own domain to bring justice and establish a system of government that is both efficient and responsible.

In the few months since democracy was restored to the country, Jordanians have been adapting to a new way of life characterised by openness, freedom of press and expression and a gradual end to martial laws. Like any new process, democracy has had its ups and downs. People are learning to cope with the demands as well as the fruits of democratic system of government. The Lower House is but one party, albeit an essential one, of democratic institutions.

Now that the wheels of justice are beginning to move, other bodies that make up the democratic system must be allowed to function and complete their job.

As the attorney general begins to investigate the nine cases of corruption which have been referred to him by the Lower House, our attention will focus on the process of legal pursuit. Democracy in Jordan is coming of age and it is at this vital stage that our support and attention are required.

House Urged To Continue Uncovering Corruption

JN2203103890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Mar 90 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "World Interest in Jordan's Corruption Purge"]

[Text] World media have been reporting what has been leaked about the discussion that took place in the House of Representatives regarding the cases of financial and administrative corruption, despite the secrecy that shrouded Tuesday's [20 March] session.

We do not believe the secrecy was aimed at concealing certain cases because the House of Representatives, which was directly elected by all sectors of the people, will hide nothing from the voters, particularly on issues related to gambling with the people's destiny.

Real gambling was involved in the cases in question, and Jordan became burdened with foreign debts when it lacked the productive and exportation sectors even to pay the annual interest on these huge debts.

Since the representatives of the people have divulged what would rectify past mistakes, they cannot at all stop shouldering this responsibility, particularly after referring nine cases to the attorney general. The representatives should continue to uncover the hidden cases not only to wash their hands of the responsibility, but also to take to task those who squeezed Jordan until the last drop and left us to bear the heavy burden of foreign debts.

The Lower House has opened its doors wide, and we believe it can bypass the labyrinths of deception and coverup that will face its committees.

We hope our representatives will be honest in their approach and in purging Jordan from the dirt that accumulated throughout its blessed march so we will not be at the mercy of a clique of individuals who gamble with the people's food and the homeland's potentials and destiny.

Investigation Teams To Probe Corruption Cases

JN2203123490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The government, acting on a request from Parliament, has referred nine cases of corruption to the public prosecutor Wednesday [21 March] to investigate possible corruption, the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA said.

Justice Minister Yusuf al-Mubayyidin was quoted as saying by PETRA a judicial inquiry would start Thursday [22 March].

Five committees, each with a judge helped by officials from relevant ministries, the Audit Bureau and the Central Bank of Jordan, would examine the contracts.

The 80-seat Lower House of Parliament, vowing to fight corruption and economic crime, referred the cases with supporting documents to Prime Minister Mudar Badran for action after a closed session Tuesday.

The cases were said to include a sale of Central Bank of Jordan's gold holding, the Abu Nusayr housing project, the al-Jubayhah amusement park project, the al-Jafr-al-'Azraq road project, the Swayqah prison project, food tenders and projects of the Jordan Valley Authority.

"The investigation committees have been granted full authority to delve deep into the problems and pursue all channels required in the course of investigation to determine the identity of persons connected to the corruption cases," al-Mubayyidin told PETRA.

"Justice will take its course, and only those actually involved and found guilty will be affected as proved by the committee's investigations," the minister added.

King Husayn Returns From France, UK

JN2203190090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur returned home this evening after a working visit by his majesty to France and the United Kingdom, where he conferred with President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Marwan al-Qasim Interviewed on Regional Issues

PM2203103490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Mar 90 p 6

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim by Huda al-Husayni on 13 March; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] What do you think of what happened within the Israeli Cabinet today (Tuesday) and Shamir's dismissal of Shim'on Peres? Do you believe the next Cabinet will be formed by the Likud?

[Al-Qasim] A review of past Israeli positions would show there is a vast difference [as published] between the attitudes of Shamir and the Labor Party. We must remember the Labor Party was instrumental in the wars that broke out between Israel and the Arab states.

The Labor Party had many opportunities to really contribute to a peaceful settlement, but when in power in the fifties, sixties, and seventies, it gave no evidence of any desire for peace. [passage omitted]

The Likud's views are very clear on the question of expansion at the expense of Arab rights and territory. Today we see that differences have threatened the Israeli Government with collapse or termination of the partnership between the the Likud and the Labor Party. We believe if the immigration process continued, it certainly would strengthen the Israeli extremist right, which quite frankly is for what Shamir, Sharon, and other Likud members have been working.

We do not say emigration from one state to another should be prohibited, but it should not be at the expense of other people or other people's rights. When it takes place according to human rights and international law, we have no objection, but we must distinguish between the emigration that is a natural human right to move from one country to another and the forced emigration that we are witnessing. The Soviet citizen has no choice in his emigration, because traditionally, he would go to the United States, but the latter has closed its doors and allows only limited numbers to enter. This forced emigration has been accompanied by a state of fear and alarm at the exaggerated reappearance of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] The Jordanian monarch has said you are considering paying a visit to the Soviet Union. What would you ask of it? Would you ask it not to confiscate the passports of Soviet Jews before they leave, or would you request other things?

[Al-Qasim] The Soviet Union is a friendly state which has worked, and still works, for peace in the region. So when we see the changes taking place there must be a reappraisal of the situation. That does not mean that any contacts with or visits to the Soviet Union should be seen as interference in its internal affairs. This is not so, but we do believe a Soviet citizen has a natural right to a passport. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] If the Soviet Union allowed the Jewish emigrant to keep his passport while giving him the chance to go to Israel, a possible change for the better in the Soviet Union might lead him to change his mind and return to his country.

[Al-Qasim] That is part of the idea which has been emphasized according to the Helsinki declaration and the Vienna convention.

Freedom of movement must be guaranteed for everyone, but there must be no selective interpretation of emigration, no forced emigration. The Soviet Union, which wants to play a part in the peace process, must fully realize that when tides of peoples leave the Soviet Union for Israel and the occupied territory, the land for peace process fails or becomes meaningless. That applies to both states [superpowers]. The United States is working for peace, but at the same time we see that one of the U.S. political institutions, the U.S. Congress, talks about securing $400 million in aid for the Israeli Government. I do not attach much importance to material aid. What matters is political support for the operation. How could the United States be interested in establishing peace based on the land for peace equation when there is direct or indirect [U.S.] funding of the settlements. (That is the United States must pledge that the loan will not be made to Israel if the aim is to use it in the occupied territory). Of course Israel does not need dollars, deutschemarks, or rubles to build settlements, because most of the construction materials are produced locally; so if there is to be any debt, it will be a local debt in shekels. But Israel, of course, benefits from two things that come with the [U.S.] loan: hard currency and political support.

We should not overlook the political support Congress gives Israel by granting it such a loan. It is much more important than financial support. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you not believe the claim that 700,000 Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel is exaggerated, and that Israel fabricated that figure to win U.S. political and material support?

[Al-Qasim] I do not believe Israel is exaggerating the figure. Some 10 days ago the housing minister said if they could secure a direct route between Moscow and Tel Aviv, they would expect 230,000 Jews to arrive by the end of the year.

Some people say during the last 40 years, since World War II, many Soviet and East European Jews have changed their names, and they could total more than 6 million.

So, as we see this immigration, we call on the Arab nation to be alert to this most serious threat since the creation of Israel, because immigration means the loss of what remains of Palestinian territory and rights and could lead to attacks on other Arab territories in southern Lebanon, the Golan, and anywhere else.

It therefore is necessary to conduct a calm, objective dialogue with the Soviet Union, because the Soviet Union must not introduce the threat of another war into the region, because if such a war did occur, it would transcend the boundaries of the region and affect neighboring states, including the Soviet Union.

[Al-Husayni] Are you afraid of a war breaking out to justify the expulsion of Palestinians to Jordan to replace them with Soviet Jews in the occupied territory?

[Al-Qasim] Israel always seizes opportunities. If we examine past wars, we will see it was Israel that promoted the causes of the wars and ultimately benefited.

Sharon and others tried to reap some gains from the 1982 Lebanon war by expelling the Palestinians and sending them elsewhere. Some of them are saying if we had succeeded, we would not have this crisis today. Of course Jordan remains, as I have said, the last barrier to Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. If, God forbid, Israel were to succeed in breaking Jordan, it immediately would be on the borders of four states.

[Al-Husayni] Do you expect an eastern front to emerge in these critical circumstances?

[Al-Qasim] It is more important to have a state of political solidarity in the eastern front for a start.

[Al-Husayni] Will you, for example, contribute to an Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation?

[Al-Qasim] King Husayn has spared no efforts in his constant endeavors, because it is in the national interest and a pan-Arab duty to promote a healthy state of affairs, which we hope will prevail in the surrounding states.

[Al-Husayni] Jordan is usally even-handed in its relations—especially Arab relations—but we notice you recently have been leaning toward Iraq. Why?

[Al-Qasim] Jordan's pan-Arab outlook dictated a stance regarding this from the beginning of the Iranian aggression against Iraq. Since then we have supported Iraq so it can establish peace with Iran based on the Arab nation's historical rights in the eastern gate.

It is not a question of leaning toward Iraq to the detriment of any other Arab side, but a question of aiming to safeguard Arab rights, as in the present water affair which has affected both Iraq and Syria. We in Jordan believe this involves a basic Arab right of two Arab states which must be safeguarded.

[Al-Husayni] Ari'el Sharon keeps calling for the opening of borders between Jordan and Israel and saying that once the bridges are opened, there will be great hopes of Palestinian-Israeli talks. How do you interpret that?

[Al-Qasim] Sharon's explanation is that Israel extends from the sea to the desert, and that he would give up part of the desert to the Palestinians, following which the bridges would be open for the Palestinians to go to Tel Aviv if the Israelis could cross the bridges to go to Petra, al-'Aqabah, Ma'an, and Irbid. He still avoids facing the facts every Israel should face. There is a Palestinian problem, not a Jordanian problem, and Israel should come face to face with the PLO.

That would be the best thing for Israeal to do, because the Palestinian position has been extremely positive in the promotion of a political formula based on withdrawal from the Palestinian territory of the West Bank,

the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem in return for peace. The Palestinians accept no alternative to their right to their own territory, especially if such an alternative is to be at the expense of people who have backed and supported the Palestinian people in the pursuit of their rights.

[Al-Husayni] Why was Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan postponed? Did Jordan decline, or were there other circumstances?

[Al-Qasim] President 'Arafat had expressed a desire to visit Jordan and I conveyed to him his majesty the king's welcome. That was a few days before the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit, so Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] asked for the visit to be postponed until after the summit. The king then went on a tour of the Gulf states to raise material and political support for the Palestinians. Now the king is on a visit to France and Britain for the same purpose.

[Al-Husayni] So when will Abu-'Ammar be able to visit Jordan?

[Al-Qasim] Whenever he likes, of course, next month.

[Al-Husayni] Now, do you believe a continuation of the same method (Cairo dialogue) is useful?

[Al-Qasim] We support any position the PLO believes could help it achieve an international conference. If the PLO believes that three-, two-, or five-way talks could lead to a comprehensive peace process, then we and the other Arab states automatically support it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you not believe such a dialogue—which nearly materialized in Cairo—could defeat the idea of an international conference?

[Al-Qasim] We believe the Palestinians have rights, and whoever attends such a dialogue on the Arab side....

[Al-Husayni] It has been specified it would be between a Palestinian delegation and an Israeli one.

[Al-Qasim] Of course there could be some participation and contribution by other parties to facilitate the process. There must be a link.

When we talk about implementation of Resolution No. 242, it does not concern Palestine and Israel alone. It also concerns Syrian and Jordanian territories, in addition to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Now there is a new situation in southern Lebanon. In the comprehensive solution there should be Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese participation.

[Al-Husayni] So you are against the Cairo dialogue.

[Al-Qasim] I did not say that. What I am saying is we support any move that is linked to and leads to a comprehensive solution and that the PLO wants.

[Al-Husayni] There have been confirmed reports that you were invited to become the fourth party in what is now commonly known as "the tripartite meeting" of U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers, and that you refused to participate. Why?

[Al-Qasim] Not at all. That assumption is not true.

[Al-Husayni] No such invitation was addressed to you?

[Al-Qasim] No, there has been no such invitation. Our position is clear to the Americans and the West in general, to the Soviets, to our Palestinian brothers, and to the Arabs. Jordan supports the Palestinian position, which the PLO—as the party whose rights are involved and which speaks for the Palestinian people—believes to be in its national interest within the pan-Arab framework of the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe the recent developments in Israel indicate the United States cannot singlehandedly impose peace on the region?

[Al-Qasim] It would be tragic to say such a superpower, which has been able to influence the Soviet Union, cannot influence Israel. What I mean is that over the years, Israel has played the part of "little David", while in fact it was a Goliath. Since World War II it has concentrated on the United States, especially since the fifties. We have seen how 100 senators signed and handed Secretary of State James Baker a message to the Soviet Union for the opening of a direct route between Moscow and Tel Aviv. Where is the objective approach to the peace process, at least by Congress? This reflects the firm foundations that Israel has built in the United States. Resisting this situation, therefore, requires unified Arab efforts and stands and efficiency in addressing the United States. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Is it true you now support the PLO out of fear of an alliance between Hamas and the Jordanian fundamentalists?

[Al-Qasim] We have supported the PLO since 1974, when there was no Hamas and there were no fundamentalists.

[Al-Husayni] Why has the Jordanian national charter been delayed?

[Al-Qasim] No date was set for it that would justify saying it has been delayed. King Husayn wanted a thorough study giving consideration to the delicate situation in the Jordanian arena and to all tendencies so everyone's rights will figure in the national framework in the interest of the people and the homeland.

Finance Minister Discusses Debts, IMF Talks

JN2203081390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 March 90 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The present foreign exchange reserve of $380 million at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is very

encouraging and the Kingdom is confident that it could be raised to $650 million by the end of the year, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said Wednesday.

Jardanah also said the present exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar was "very realistic and appropriate" and that "there is no demand for any change" in the rate.

Addressing an informal briefing for reporters, Jardanah said Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were near agreement on finalising the next phase of the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme.

Finalisation of the agreement, which follows an informal visit to Jordan by an IMF delegation earlier this month, will release $44 million in IMF standby credits to Jordan in four tranches of $11 million each, he said.

The foreign exchange reserve at the Central Bank stood at $500 million at the end of 1989, and was reduced to $380 million by March since the Kingdom had to meet interest in arrears on its external loans, according to the minister. "A substantial amount of interest due in 1989 was not paid since we could not agree on terms of (rescheduling)," he said.

"Now, some of the bilateral agreements have been signed and we have paid all interest in arrears to the London Club" of creditor banks, but there are some outstanding payments to the Paris Club of creditor governments. He did not provide any figures.

The minister voiced confidence that Jordan would meet its target of receiving $750 million in Arab aid and foreign loans, and be able to raise its reserves to $650 million by end of the year under a "foreign exchange programme already worked out."

He explained that the Kingdom expected a minimum of $360 million in Arab financial assistance—"we are sure that it will be more," he said without giving specific commitments—and the rest in the form of a $150 million loan from the World Bank, another loan of $159 million from Japan and $44 million IMF standby credit.

The present foreign exchange reserve of $380 million includes mandatory deposits at the Central Bank from commercial banks he said. He did not give any breakdowns, but said the total of such commercial bank deposits was in the range of $260 million to $280 million.

During the expected visit of the IMF delegation in April, Jordan and the fund will also prepare a medium-term economic programme lasting until the year 1993, he said.

Jordan has concluded bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with all concerned members of the Paris Club except Britain, Belgium and Sweden, he said, adding that the Kingdom expected to sign a final rescheduling agreement with the London Club in April.

He said Jordan could only hope for marginal relief from the Brady plan of writing-off debts of developing countries since commercial banks accounted for only 13 per cent of its debts.

Also, he added, Jordan could not hope to gain from the Toronto Protocol applicable to poor debtor countries since the Kingdom's per capital income was above the $800 set as basic qualifying point under the agreement.

"Jordan needs a special treatment," he said.

Jardanah conceded that Jordan, for purposes of meeting IMF stipulations and criteria, maintained a dual system of "a state budget," which excludes the armament fund of the Kingdom, and an "IMF budget," which includes defence allocations. "It's a normal practice," he said. "The IMF doesn't mind."

However, he said, there are differences with the IMF over the projected deficit in the 1990 budget. "IMF terms are tough and difficult," he said, "and they make my life very difficult."

The finance minister disclosed that the principal of the total foreign debts of the Kingdom was revised and set at $8.06 billion, down from $8.3 billion as announced earlier. The reduction, he said, was due to the elimination of interest and readjustment.

Jordan's gold reserve—750,000 ounces—has a market value of $300 million, and the last sale of 250,000 ounces—when the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i was in power—fetched the Kingdom $80 million, according to the minister.

Jardanah confirmed that it was government policy" to sell its shares in newspaper establishments and hotels, but "we are in no hurry."

However, he said, any such sale take into consideration the Amman Financial Market situation and "equal chances will be given to everyone" to acquire the shares. "We will do it stage-by-stage, avoiding any adverse impact on the market," he added.

Foreign investors would be welcome to step in, he said, but "in a selective manner."

Ninety per cent of any capital gain made in such deals would be directly channelled to the budget, and the principal and remainder of the capital gain would be placed at the disposal of the Jordan Finance Corporation to be used for investments in new projects, he said. He estimated government holdings in commercial undertakings at between JD 160 million and JD 180 million.

Jardanah confirmed that Gulf Arab states had undertaken to place a total of $300 million at the disposal of the Central Bank of Jordan for use whenever deemed necessary under a reciprocatory arrangement involving dinars. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have already "contributed their shares" of the amount, and unnamed others have not done so, he said.

The finance minister noted that Jordan had managed to bring down its trade deficit to $1.050 billion in 1989, down from $1.7 billion in 1988. Imports amounted to $2.100 million while exports and re-exports totalled $1.090 billion. "It is a significant achievement," he said. "We hope to further reduce the deficit by $100 million in 1990," he said.

Asked how he assessed the external impact on Jordan of the ongoing probe into cases of corruption, the minister said he expected it to have a positive effect on Arab aid to the Kingdom, but conceded that the picture was not so clear as far as foreign investments were concerned.

Jardanah, who assumed office in April 1989 in the government of Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and retained the portfolio in the cabinet of Mudar Badran in December, squashed rumours that he was resigning. "The very fact that I am meeting you today is an indication that I have no plans to resign any time soon," he told the gathering.

Policeman Killed in Shootout With Drug Smugglers

JN2203083190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—A policeman was killed Monday in a shootout with drug smugglers, police said. A police spokesman, quoted by the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, said that police seized a large amount of hashish which was supposed to be transferred to a neighbouring Arab country. He said that the anti-narcotics department organised an operation to arrest the smugglers flagrante delicto. In the operation, the smugglers started shooting, killing Lieutenant Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sukhni, the spokesman said. After the clashes, several smugglers were arrested and a large amount of drugs was seized, he said.

Al-Hirawi Rules Out Military Move in E. Beirut

NC2203124690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has ruled out any military intervention in East Beirut to end the fighting there. He denied reports of a French initiative to find a solution in the eastern area linked to the national solution.

The London-based paper AL-HAYAH cites President al-Hirawi as saying, in a telephone interview published today: The reports about the existence of a French initiative are no more than trial balloons sent up for ulterior motives, particularly when it is said the president is making such proposals. He added he does not believe it is appropriate for the legitimate authority to intervene militarily in the eastern area now, following the earthquake of destruction that hit it, even though the government has the necessary military force to intervene there. He went on to say: I do not know whether it is appropriate for the legitimate authority to go in there with tanks, which, by the way, are available in one way or another. I do not know whether the legitimate authority's entry by force of arms will help the ordinary citizen.

Fadlallah: 'New Situation' Regarding Hostages

NC2303070090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] According to security reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, Amal and Hizballah fighters still are exchanging machinegun and rocket fire. The Higher Shiite Council's committee meanwhile has resumed its efforts to resolve the problem and dispatch army units to the region, according to press sources this morning. The committee met with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss regarding this.

A West Beirut security source has been cited as saying contacts are underway to deploy army units on the Tyre-Sidon coastal road preparatory to deploying them in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said the Damascus agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah does not have a good chance of being implemented. He maintained the al- Ta'if accord is dead and buried.

Asked about the issue of foreign hostages held in Lebanon, Fadlallah said: A new situation has emerged regarding this issue, but I cannot say when, how, and where. It should be recalled Fadlallah met yesterday with 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers in Beirut.

Al-Huss on Interior Minister's Resignation

NC2203123990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today said the submission of the interior minister's resignation came as a way to avert the repercussions and consequences of the bank incident on the regime and government. Prime Minister al-Huss in a statement said the incident could have had adverse effects on the credibility and effectiveness of the legitimate authority while it is waging a battle of survival against its foes and those who lie in wait for it and for Lebanon.

The prime minister added: We naturally have not intervened in the course of the judicial investigations or anticipated their results. These investigations were initiated right at the beginning. We decided since then to let justice take its course. He added: When an incident takes place, a mistake is committed, or a problem arises regarding the position of a specific minister, regardless of whether he is the direct cause or not, then he and the entire government assume the responsibility as long as he is a member of the government. It is natural in such cases in other countries for the minister himself to protect the government by leaving it, even if it cannot be confirmed that he is the direct cause of the incident.

Prime Minister al-Huss continued: It was our duty to seek various ways to deal with the incident, be aware of its gravity, ensure such incidents will not reoccur, and safeguard the legitimate authority and its credibility from the consequences of the incident that took place. The result of this effort was the formula which was announced following the meeting conducted yesterday at the presidential headquarters.

Al-Huss said all resources will continue to be mobilized to strengthen the legitimate authority and its credibility so it may stand fast and carry out its great duties in confronting the fiercest challenge facing Lebanon at the hands of the outlaws.

Ja'ja' on al-Ta'if, Dialogue, Other Issues

NC2203114690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has asserted the problem between him and General Michel 'Awn is not a personal one. Accordingly, he said, the solution must be at the national level. He pointed out if the solution does not cover all Lebanon and does not succeed in constituting a comprehensive national solution, no cease-fire or temporary arrangements can produce results. Dr. Ja'ja' said: I will not accept a termination of this crisis unless it is done through a solution guaranteeing the minimum acceptable level of reassurance, confidence, and security for the people. Maintaining the status quo and being satisfied with the development of the political authority alone will mean a new war, even if the majority approves, he said. I may go along with such a solution. But I neither will be satisfied with it nor take the responsibility for it, he said.

Dr. Ja'ja' denied the problem obstructing the announcement of the political authority is one of names. He added the important elements are the role, goals, and policies of that authority. He said: To me, the only acceptable

solution is one matching the current crisis, and which can make up for the great sacrifices of our society.

Dr. Ja'ja' stressed the importance of dialogue among all the Lebanese parties, asserting his willingness to engage in such a dialogue with all the parties concerned in the western area of Beirut. He asserted the French contacts are taking their proper course, according to realities.

Dr. Ja'ja' declared the al-Ta'if agreement could be an approach to undoing some of the complications of the Lebanese crisis. We cannot say it is the solution that will restore Lebanon's past by the wave of a magic wand. Equally, we do not perceive it as the cursed Satan which has come to destroy Lebanon, he said.

On possible amendments to the al-Ta'if agreement, Ja'ja' said: I believe there is nothing that cannot be amended. It is the al-Ta'if agreement that was created to help Lebanon and not the opposite, he added.

Dr. Ja'ja' believes forming a true national unity government could be used as a framework for patiently and quietly studying the al-Ta'if. He confirmed there are contacts with Al-Hirawi that focus on the situation in general without proceeding to the details, which are the responsibility of the political authority.

He asserted the Lebanese leaders are responsibile for the outbreak and continuation of the war. The worst mistake we ever made was to think we were not guilty and that foreign countries were to blame for what was happening, he said. We have to admit we are guilty and that it was our negligence that made it possible for foreign countries to interfere in our domestic affairs.

Dr. Ja'ja' made these remarks during an interview with the Alf Laylah Wa Laylah publishing house.

Israel Reportedly Annexing Areas in South

NC2203143190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces are persisting in their policy of slicing off areas of Lebanese territory in the south within sight and hearing of international organizations. These organizations are not paying any attention to all the voices being raised, demanding an end to this colonization policy and the inhuman practices against the owners of the land.

According to reports received from the al-'Urqub area in the south yesterday, the Israeli occupation forces almost have finished widening the road linking the occupied territory with Bustra farm, located within the boundaries of Shab'a. It is known the occupation forces have taken control of seven Shab'a farms and have begun establishing settlements to house Falasha Jews in them.

The Israelis have informed the 35 families of Bustra farm they intend to establish military posts there when the farm is vacated by its residents at the end of this month. The residents recently have received strong Israeli threats that if they do not leave the farm, they will be expelled by force.

Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, explained this morning he sent a memorandum yesterday in the name of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss to the Defense and Interior Ministries. The memorandum asks them to supply the Foreign Ministry with the necessary precise reports on the information received from the occupied Lebanese areas to the effect the occupation forces have resumed annexing some villages around Shab'a to connect them to a road network in northern occupied Palestine. Ambassador Sutaytiyah added if such reports are confirmed, urgent diplomatic action and the necessary emergency measures will be taken.

Israeli 'Occupation Troops' Active in South

NC2203180090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] At 0530 today, a combined force of Israeli occupation troops and agents advanced from the Kawkaba position toward the Jabal al-Dahr heights and raked the area before the force returned to its position. Yesterday afternoon Israeli forces shelled the Jabbur, Abu Rashid, Maydun, Jabal al-Dahr, and al-Daydabah areas for an hour from their positions in Abu Qamhah, al-Ahmadiyah, and Tallat al-Sharifi.

There also was an enemy attempt yesterday to advance on the Birkat Jabbur-Abu-Rashid line. Resistance fighters confronted the advancing force and clashed with it, leaving one resistance fighter martyred and five enemy soldiers wounded.

This shelling resumed at 2000 yesterday, and then two Israeli helicopters flew over a number of western al-Biqa' areas, drawing antiaircraft fire. The helicopters reportedly opened fire from heavy-caliber machineguns at the Maydun forests.

Yesterday afternoon an agent militia force composed of six half-track vehicles raked the eastern side of Kafr Huna, al-'Ayshiyah, and al-Rayhan. Sources in the area linked this raking operation to information that an explosive charge had gone off under an agent militia jeep, damaging it and seriously wounding its passengers.

According to reports received from the occupied border strip this morning, the occupation forces and the agent militia have been placed on maximum alert during the past 24 hours. Extensive military movements were reported in the Marj 'Uyun and Hasbayya areas. A number of roadblocks have been established at crossroads, and vehicles are being carefully searched.

'Fierce Clashes' in Iqlim al-Tuffah Noted

NC2203152390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] According to a security report, fierce clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets have been taking place on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines since 1600 today. Two people were reportedly wounded and taken to 'Ala'-al-Din Hospital in al-Sarafand. Shells are falling on the villages of Sarba, Kafr Hatta, Jurnaya and Humin.

Casualties Reported

NC2203192690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Fierce clashes continue in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. A security source stated a short while ago that al-Ghaziyah came under artillery fire from Hizballah positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jabal Safi. The situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah deteriorated this afternoon. A number of people were reportedly killed or wounded as a result of artillery fire exchanged between the two warring sides.

A responsible security source in the Amal Movement has stated that at 1550 today, Hizballah attempted to advance toward Amal Movement positions in Jurnaya and Kafr Bayt under cover of heavy artillery fire. Amal Movement fighters confronted the attackers and forced them to withdraw, killing three and inflicting material losses on them.

The Amal security source said that Kafr Hatta, Sarba, Jurnaya, and Humin came under heavy artillery and rocket fire from Hizballah positions in Mlita, Kafr Milki, and 'Ayn Qana. The shelling left five people wounded, and two of them were moved to 'Ala' al-Din Hospital in al-Sarafan. A number of houses also were damaged.

Resistance Fighters Exchange Fire With Israelis

NC2303102590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] The National Resistance Front has issued a statement saying two resistance groups this morning detonated explosive charges on a military road linking Sfaray to Kafr Falus. The blasts destroyed a jeep and an armored personnel carrier, leaving their passengers killed or wounded.

The statement adds the long-range artillery of the Israeli enemy and its agents bombarded positions of the Popular Liberation Army [PLA] on the Kafr Falus front for two hours. The PLA artillery responded and silenced the sources of enemy fire.

In another development, clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets between the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters currently are raging in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Lebanese Forces Positions Come Under Army Fire

NC2303104390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces positions in (Kafr Dhibyan) and adjacent areas have been coming under tank and mortar fire from Army positions in Kafr 'Uqab since 1115 today. This bombardment came after intensive sniper fire was directed at Lebanese Forces positions in Yasu'al-Malik from Army positions in al-Dubayyah. In addition, Lebanese Forces positions in the Jisr al-Wati and Hotel Dieu areas came under sniper fire from Hursh Thabit and al-'Adliyah about half an hour ago. Contacts are under way among the joint military committee members to contain these incidents.

'Third Party' Blamed for Shelling in Al-Matn

NC2303112690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1111 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: The Lebanese Forces positions in al-Matn and Kasrawan were subjected a short while ago to shellfire. It transpired from the security committee's contacts that a third party was behind this attack.

Al-Asad Congratulates Namibia on Independence

JN2303080190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia, on Namibia's declaration of independence. Following is the text:

On the proclamation of Namibia's independence, I am pleased to congratulate you and your friendly people on this major event that was achieved after a long, hard struggle fought by the Namibian people to get rid of the colonization of the racist regime of South Africa, which imposed on your country the same apartheid that it imposed on South Africa.

Namibia's independence has confirmed a fact that we have always believed in: The people who believe in their right to freedom, independence, and self-determination and who struggle for the sake of those rights will inevitably reach their objectives and defeat the forces of colonialism and racism.

Syria, which has always supported the Namibian people's struggle, considers your people's independence a victory for your people, for all African people, and for the liberation movements in the world.

On this historic occasion, I would like to repeat my best wishes of good health and happiness for you, and of success in building a strong country in all fields for your people.

Friendship, Cooperation With USSR Praised

JN2203114390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has praised the friendship and cooperation ties between Syria and the USSR. In today's editorial, the newspaper says that the Syrian-Soviet friendship was never an object of wagering, doubt, or misinterpretation. The basic truths of this friendship have given the events and turning points which the world, including the Middle East, has witnessed, tangible and practical results that were translated on the ground and on the various levels of this friendship.

AL-THAWRAH reviewed the areas of cooperation between Syria and the USSR. The paper says that the friendship that was entrenched throughout the past four decades and through the leadership of the two friendly countries has become an example not only in international relations but also in the multifaceted relations between the Soviet peoples and the Arabs. The method of exchanging gains on the one hand, and firm credibility on the other, have become a firm tradition.

The paper affirmed that relations between the two friendly countries have developed and areas of cooperation have become numerous under President al-Asad's leadership inasmuch as they were entrenched under the Soviet leadership.

Regarding Syria's adherence to its friendship with the USSR, the paper cited leader al-Asad's assertion in his speech on the 8 March revolution anniversary that the USSR has backed our fair struggle and provided us with basic support in confronting the aggression, that these stands will remain a vital part of the history of our relations giving them momentum, and that the Arab people do not ignore others particularly in matters related to our major issues.

Soviet Official Praises 'Brave Intifadah'

JN2203120490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA)—The Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society last night held a speech rally at the Soviet Cultural Center in Damascus in honor of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship delegation led by Comrade Fikryat Tabeyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers, and chairman of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society now visiting Syria. The rally was attended by the members of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society Executive Bureau, the Soviet Embassy staff, the Soviet community in Damascus, and a large crowd of citizens.

Comrade Tabeyev delivered a speech in which he affirmed the Soviet people's pride in the Soviet-Syrian friendship. He noted the developed relations between the peoples and parties in the two countries. He added: This friendship is growing and integrating on a strong and compatible basis. We hope to reinforce and expand relations of mutual cooperation between our countries.

Tabeyev affirmed that Soviet public opinion today is as it was in the past—standing at the side of the Syrian people, and is proud of the friendship and mutual cooperation with this people proceeding from their common objectives and similar viewpoints vis-a-vis the various local and international issues.

Comrade Tabeyev spoke about the objectives of the Soviet-Syrian Friendship Society. He said: It aims at acquainting Soviet public opinion in a broad and deep way with Syria's civilization and great successes in all fields as well as the struggle of the Syrian people to establish just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Tabeyev reiterated the USSR's support for Syria in its struggle against the imperialist and Zionist designs in the region. He said: The USSR exerted and is still exerting big efforts to find a fair settlement to the Middle East crisis. He added that the Soviet stand did not and will not change toward convening an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all concerned

parties, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as toward recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to establish their independent state.

Comrade Tabeyev praised the brave intifadah in the occupied Arab territory.

Comrade Haytham Duwayhi, chairman of the National Federation for Syrian Students and member of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society Executive Bureau, delivered a speech in which he praised the friendly USSR's support for our just struggle, expressing Syria's high appreciation of this support for the Arab people's struggle—support which stems from the USSR's principled and firm policy to support the peace-loving people and their just struggle for liberation.

Comrade Duwayhi affirmed the Syrian people's pride in relations of friendship with the USSR and their full conviction in this friendship, which has witnessed great development in the various fields on the basis of mutual respect and common hopes to achieve the objectives of the peoples in both countries.

Duwayhi praised the efforts made by the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Societies to reinforce the friendship between the parties and peoples through the two societies' activities.

At the end of the rally, the Umayyad band gave a distinguished musical performance.

Paper 'Not Surprised' by U.S. Anti-Arab Action

JN2303070590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Mar 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its front-page editorial, AL-BA'TH deals with the U.S. Senate document calling for direct Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and with the announcement made by the U.S. assistant secretary of state about a new plan to finance this immigration through the allocation of $400 million to be injected into the Israeli treasury for that purpose.

AL-BA'TH says: We are not surprised at all by this hostile action toward the Arabs. What is surprising is that while Arabs are able to hear the bluntness of the U.S. Administration, they pretend they cannot hear any of it. Neither are we surprised by the insistence of the U.S. Department of Defense that Israel accept its gift: an anti-missile system. What does surprise us is that Arabs continue to be disillusioned by the U.S. position in regard to the regaining of their rights, which were usurped by the Zionists with direct U.S. support.

Hence, will these U.S. provocations prompt the Arabs to confirm that they exist and that they are clear and serious about their causes?

Afghanistan

USSR Calls for All-Party Talks on Afghanistan

BK2203114090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 90 p 12

[By Sadiq Jafri]

[Text] Islamabad—Describing Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan's recent talks in Moscow as a "disappointment", a senior Soviet diplomat on Wednesday [21 March] night said he did not view it as a blockade in negotiations.

Talking to THE PAKISTAN TIMES here at the Soviet Embassy, the diplomat said much progress could be expected from the next Baker-Shevardnadze talks, possibly to be held in the United States in early April, and more Soviet-U.S. talks before the next Bush-Gorbachev summit expected to take place in June this year.

He also expressed optimism about the Soviet-U.S. talks this week in Helsinki.

The Soviet Union, he said, had seriously noticed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's remarks that both Pakistan and the Soviet Union should leave favourtism aside and go for bold initiatives. Theoretically, the diplomat said, the Afghan issue was not a bilateral issue but practically it surely was.

"But we also read the Prime Minister's statement that short of recognition Pakistan would continue to fully support the AIG" [Afghan Interim Government], he said. The diplomat said that Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan was informed in Moscow that the Soviet Union wanted an election in Afghanistan participated by all factions. "We are prepared to accept any results of the polls. Even if Gulbuddin Hikmatyar wins".

He however said that the Soviet Union had certain pacts and commitments with Dr. Najib's government. "We cannot just abandon him. Then we are for freedom of choice. If we can support it in Eastern European countries, how could we deprive the Afghans of it?"

The Soviet Union, he said, recognised the fact that Pakistan could face pressure from Afghan groups in case it decided on anything against their choice. "That is why we say that we should go for a minor beginning".

The diplomat said in the beginning an impression had been given that Pakistan wanted to forget about the past and begin with new ideas. But, he said, during the talks Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan repeated the old part of the first U.S. plan about a new Afghan Shura [Consultative Assembly].

"We believe the idea of a Shura is now dead. During consultations we expressed the view that all parties in the Afghan issue, including all the opposition groups, should talk. If the first-ranking leaders are not acceptable to any other party, let's settle for No. 2 leaders, or even the experts."

The diplomat put great stress on the release of Soviet prisoners of war held by Afghan groups. "On October 16 last year. We asked Pakistan's Foreign Office to arrange for our fifth round of talks with Afghan groups in this respect, but there has been no reply as yet". On a question, he said surely the Afghan commanders were using the issue of POW's as a leverage.

He said there had been no reply so far from Pakistan's side on the Soviet proposal of all parties talks.

Najibullah Interviewed on Party Situation

LD2303095990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 22, BAKHTAR—The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) does not need to be reorganised because expulsion of a limited number of persons from our big and strong party does not disrupt the organisation of the party. On the contrary with the expulsion of anti-party elements and those who opposed the national reconciliation policy, the party has been strengthened even further.

This was said by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) in an interview on March 21, 1990 with a correspondent of Radio BBC on the occasion of the new Afghan year (1369) started March 21, 1990.

In reply to another question President Najibullah said: Those expelled from the party do not belong to any faction of the party as claimed. At present no need exists for setting up of a new Central Committee and Politburo. The main framework of the party i.e. its Central Committee and Politburo exist. Only a small number were expelled unanimously from the party in the plenum of the PDPA CC, concluded recently.

The Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup was mainly organised against the national reconciliation policy with the direct help and participation of the Pakistan Inter-Service-Intelligence "ISI". Its thwarting not only did not damage the policy of national reconciliation but also strengthens the policy as well.

Replying to a question on giving up of monopoly of power by the PDPA, the president said: Over three years ago with the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy and formation of a political pluralism the PDPA put an end to monopoly of power. Now in addition to the PDPA, eight other political parties having independent opinions and program of actions operate in Afghanistan. It should be indicated that we do not limit the political pluralism to the mentioned parties. Thus we have invited several times other Afghan personalities living inside and outside the country to take part in ensurance of peace and setting up of a broad-based coalition government through talks and dialogue.

Touching on a question about the escape of Shahnawaz to the opponents of the state of the RA, he said that it is obvious that the treacherous act of Shahnawaz brought about some difficulties but we overcame them in a short time. On the other hand joining of Shahnawaz and his small number accomplices to the opposition forces at the first step not to Gulbuddin but to the "ISI" of Pakistan cannot create obstacles towards the political and military tasks of the RA state.

Najibullah, president of the RA answering a question indicated that we do not have maintained contacts with some local field commanders of the nine alliance based in Iran, but with a number of local commanders of the seven alliance stationed in Peshawar as well.

Referring to a question on RA's favorite constitution, President Najibullah said: RA's favorite constitution is to be accepted and supported by majority of the people of Afghanistan and to be able to help restoration of peace, strengthening national unity and tranquility of all tribes and nationalities residing in Afghanistan.

We want a national political system for Afghanistan defending the interests and values of the majority of Afghans in which political pluralism i.e. a multi-party and a mixed economic systems and free market prevail. In international arena, it should keep logical balance in relations with East and West and help the cause of peace, stability and international security.

Replying to another question, the Afghan leader said, in our efforts for bringing about current changes in the socio-economic and political fields, we enjoy the support of the majority of our people. Likewise, the authorities of the Soviet Union have expressed their support to the national reconciliation policy and the changes underway in the RA and regard them in the interest of peace and security in the region as well as in the world.

At the end of his interview President Najibullah said: I am hopeful that the new year would be a year of cessation of war and bloodshed, restoration of peace and security, political settlement of the Afghan issue, return of the refugees and rehabilitation of our war-stricken homeland.

Najibullah Interviewed by VOA 20 Mar

LD2203111490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 21, BAKHTAR—A limited number of officers and militarymen had participated in the abortive coup d'etat of March 6 staged by Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz and after knowing the essence of the coup with the participation of Gulbuddin and the direct involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence "ISI". They immediately withdrew their support of coup plotters and took action against them.

Said Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in a telephonic interview with Parwiz Naqibi, correspondent of Radio Voice of America on March 20, 1990.

President Najibullah added that investigation about prisoners and the losses arising from the coup is continuing and will be published shortly.

Replying to another question, President Najibullah said that there are undeniable facts that some Pakistani circles had a direct hand in the coup. The involvement of Gulbuddin in the coup, which is directly linked with ISI, the fleeting of Shahnawaz and his clique to Pakistan, granting political asylum to him by Pakistani authorities, refusal of Pakistan from the extradition of fugitive coup plotters and the Afghan planes, and the admission of coup leaders by Pakistan as per the earlier agreement between the both sides in case the coup fails, are all testifying to the involvement of Pakistan in the abortive coup. More over, some Western sources is also confirming Pakistan's involvement in the coup.

Touching on diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Iran President Najibullah said that such relations were established long ago and is continuing so far. The recent stand on the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Afghan issue is a positive change in the policy of Iran vis-a-vis the RA and is a realistic one which is being welcomed by the state of the RA.

Answering another question, President Najibullah said that even the opposition group, and the opposition field commanders do not recognise the interim government of Rawalpindi. As for Gulbuddin's intention to form a state with the opposition groups stationed in Iran, Gulbuddin has even boycotted with the interim government of the seven-alliance in Peshawar. Most field commanders of the "nine-alliance" in Iran, the independent groups and the influential social figures in their statements have described Gulbuddin as an extremist and fanatic person. Moreover, the failed coup attempt by Gulbuddin- Shahnawaz showed that he is merely seeking an autocratic power.

Replying to a question on the future of opposition interim government President Najibullah said that, the Rawalpindi interim government does not have any legal validity and even in terms of the norms created by the seven-alliance it does not have any physical existence.

In our view, the present attempts of the leaders of the seven alliance based in Peshawar for the creation of a council of a new government to broaden the bases of the present interim government is futile because the nine-alliance in Iran, a large number of field commanders, opposition forces, independent organisations and figures outside the country as well as Gulbuddin group have already boycotted such attempts. Thus, it is seen that even the bases of the present illegitimate interim government is getting smaller day by day.

Replying to another question, President Najibullah said that the radio transmission of Tudeh Party of Iran or their organisations does not exist in Afghanistan. Based on the principle of good-neighbourly relations and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries, Afghanistan will not embark on any steps, which will be leading to deteriorate relations between the Republic of Afghanstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Touching on the results of the Geneva accords, President Najibullah said that as far as it concerns the state of the RA, we have fulfilled all our commitments. The Soviet Union also withdrew its limited military contingents as per the time frame agreed upon in the annex of the agreements. But with regret, the other side, that I [words indistinct] not only did not fulfil its commitments but intensified its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The United States of America as a guarantor of the accords did not act as it was expected. The flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords and breaking its commitments for its non-intervention into the affairs of Afghanistan, failure by the United States to put into effect its guarantees are creating major obstacles towards the full realisation of the provisions of the Geneva accords.

While replying [to] a question on final solution of the Afghan issue, the Afghan leader stated that the most practical way to solve disputes between Afghans is the starting of dialogue among all forces and groups involved in the conflict. The state of the RA have so far set forth about thirty proposals to this effect and the sooner the armed opposition give positive response to this proposal the better we will come to reach a general accord.

The eleven-year imposed war inflicted heavy losses on the country's economy under which the agricultural system and the sound growth of industry have suffered a great loss. Parallel to efforts of the RA state for achieving peace, the agricultural and industrial activities have also given the highest priority in the development programs. The reconstruction of our war-stricken economy calls for the selfless assistance of any peaceful country or international organisations, the renderence of which are being highly appreciated in the RA, President Najibullah stated.

Najibullah Sends Messages to Iran, Namibia

LD2203054790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 20, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has communicated a congratulatory message to Hojjat ol-Eslam Muslimin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the new year.

President Najibullah in his message on behalf of the people of the Republic of Afghanistan and on his own congratulating president of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the advent of the new year and through him to all Muslim and brotherly people of Iran. Best wishes are also expressed in the message for A.A. Rafsanjani's best health and welfare and prosperity of Iranian brothers.

A similar message has also been sent to Tehran by 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the RA, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Najibullah has also sent a congratulatory message to Sam Nujoma, SWAPO [South West African People's Organization] chairman and president of the Republic of Namibia. The emergence of a free and independent Namibia, says the message, is the result of the unique struggles made by Namibians led by SWAPO.

The people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan are always resolute in giving their support to the Namibia's cause and confidence is expressed that relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and independent Namibia will be further developed and strengthened on the basis of the principle of friendship and mutual cooperation.

Charge in Islamabad Alleges Tanay in Pakistan

BK2103120390 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 90 p 8

[By "special correspondent"]

[Text] Islamabad—Mr. Qudratullah Ahmadi, Afghan Charge d'Affaires has claimed that Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay who plotted an unsuccessful coup in Kabul early this month is still in Pakistan along with his family members and three other generals.

Talking to THE PAKISTAN TIMES at his offices here, he denied reports that former Minister of Defence Gen. Tanay had gone back to Afghanistan.

Mr. Ahmadi also claimed that the helicopter on which the rebel general had fled Afghanistan was still in Peshawar, somewhere near Jamrud, and according to Mr. Tanay's statement his family was also in Pakistan.

He said that Gen. Tanay was taken to southern Lowghar from Pakistan territory only to prove it before a media team also taken to that place that he was still fighting inside Afghanistan. After the news conference, the general had been taken back to Pakistan he added.

Describing the Kabul regime's version of the facts behind March 6 coup attempt, Mr. Ahmadi said that it was no more a secret that Gen. Tanay had been in constant touch with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar group and that "everybody knows about the links between Hikmatyar and CIA."

Rejecting the impression that Gen. Tanay had led a mass uprising in Afghanistan, the Charge d'Affaires said a small group of members of Politburo, Central Committee, Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence had supported the abortive coup.

He said that five members of Afghan Politburo and 20 members of Central Committee had been expelled on Sunday on charges of supporting the coup plot.

Mr. Ahmadi also opposed the idea that the coup was planned by the whole Khalq faction. He said Gen. Tanay led a small portion of the Khalq faction. To substantiate his claim, he mentioned the names of the former Minister for Interior, Mr. Aslam Watanjar, who has now replaced Gen. Tanay as Minister of Defence, and the former Minister for Water and Power, Raz Mohammad Paktin, who has now become the Minister for Interior. "Both of them belong to the Khalq faction", he said.

He also said the Minister for Defence was not as important in Afghanistan as believed by some people. The Ministry of Security, he said, was also a powerful department which had over 40,000 volunteer national guards under its control. Then the Ministry of Interior also had its own armoured divisions and tanks.

The Afghan Charge d'Affaires also said Gen. Tanay had planned a revolt more than three months ago, which had also failed.

"One hundred and twenty seven persons belonging to the Ministry of Defence and the Afghan Military had been arrested at that time. They had revealed that they had links with both Gen. Tanay and Gulbuddin Hikmatyar group".

"Mr. Aslam Watanjar, the then Minister for Interior, had invited Gen. Tanay at his residence where President Najib was also present", he recalled. "Gen. Tanay denied the charge of his involvement in that attempt before President Najibullah. The latter, at that point, told Gen. Tanay that he (Najib) was tired of the power tussle and he could arrange Gen. Tanay's appointment as President if that was the ambition behind the attempt. But Gen. Tanay refused".

Mr. Ahmadi said the Kabul regime did not fear any new attempt from Gen. Tanay now that the coup bid had failed. "He would be only able to sell our secrets to enemies. Otherwise he is as good as Hikmatyar".

He also opposed the idea that the coup plot had weakened the Najib government. It is now stronger, he said, as a revolt from "inside" had also failed.

However, he regretted that the killing is likely to continue, he added, until all the Afghan groups agree on the national reconciliation policy presented by Dr. Najib.

Armed Forces Repel Attacks on Khowst, Qandahar

LD2203054290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 20, BAKHTAR—The contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan stationed in the Khowst Grand District repelled attacks of the extremists supported by Pakistan and Saudi Wahabis. On the Tangay, Gorbaz, Esma'il-Kheyl and Yaqubi areas during the past 4 days and cleared 110 enemies from the battle scene, a concerned source said to the BAKHTAR military correspondent here today.

The source further added that the enemies who took under their pressure the Samar Kheyl, Dasht-e Gambiri, Kano Kartarghai [placename as received], Sorkh Rud and Behsud garrisons during that period were forced by the land and air attack of the government forces and retreated. Over 98 enemies were either killed or wounded. Eight servicemen were killed and 17 others wounded.

Report reaching from Qandahar say that the Towr Kotal area as well as the security posts around the Sarposa [placename as received] environs. Qandahar came under the heavy fire of the enemies resulting to the killing of a servicemen and injuries two others. The Armed Forces retaliated and killed 5 enemies.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemies, including 4 mortars, two recoilless guns, 3 rocket launchers and 4 vehicles loaded with armaments were destroyed.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Returns From Visit to Italy

BK2203130090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] President Ershad returned home today after a two-day official visit to Italy. He was accompanied by First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad. Vice President Moudud Ahmed received the president at the Zia International Airport.

President Ershad also had wide-ranging talks with the Italian prime minister, Giulio Andreotti. The president also gave a talk on [word indistinct] of international cooperation and development in the current decade—a view from Bangladesh, at the Italian capital.

Bangladesh and Italy signed three agreements in the fields of technical cooperation, avoidance of double taxation, and investment guarantee. A letter of intent on cultural cooperation between the two countries was also initialled.

President Accepts Planning Minister's Resignation

BK2203155890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of Planning Minister A.K. Khandaker.

Finance Minister Takes Portfolio

BK2303075890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Dhaka, March 23 (AFP)—Abdul Munim, Bangladesh's new finance minister, will also take hold the planning portfolio, state-run television reported Friday [23 March], quoting an official announcement. The announcement came hours after Planning Minister Abdul Karim Khandaker's resignation from the cabinet was accepted by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad late Thursday.

Mr. Munim, a retired army general, previously held the agriculture portfolio.

Mr. Khandaker is the second cabinet minister to resign within a week following the decision of Finance Minister Wahidul Haq to quit the cabinet on March 16 after warning of a major economic crisis in Bangladesh.

India

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC's Qian Qichen

Holds Talks With Gujral

BK2203160790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] India has supported China's entry into the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, GATT. This was conveyed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, during his first round of discussions with the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, in New Delhi today. He said as a member of the Group of 77, India attaches great importance to cooperation with China on multilateral economic matters.

The discussions, lasting 2 and ½ hours, covered mainly a number of international issues. Mr. Gujral reiterated that India is committed to having more intensive relations with China and the response from that country is highly satisfying.

Our correspondent understands that no bilateral matters figured in the talks.

Hopes for Border Issue Resolution

BK2303031490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, has expressed the hope that a reasonable solution can be found to the outstanding boundary issue with India. Speaking at a banquet hosted in New Delhi by the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, Mr. Qian said that China is ready to work together with India for further development of good-neighborly relations on the basis of pancasila, the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The visiting dignitary said India, as a big country in South Asia, has an important role to play in ensuring peace and development in the region. He pointed out that the improvement and development of Sino-Indian relations will by no means adversely affect the existing friendly relations between China and other South Asian countries.

In his speech, Mr. Gujral said that Sino-Indian relations have improved significantly in the past few years and expressed the desire to achieve a settlement of the outstanding issues in a spirit of cooperation and friendship. He said the National Front government would retain and carry forward the momentum that was achieved during the visit of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to China last year.

Curfew Set on 5-km Strip Along Pakistani Border

BK2203161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The situation throughout the Kashmir valley continued to remain peaceful today. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. The curfew was relaxed in Srinagar for four hours from 0500 this morning. The relaxation period passed off peacefully.

Meanwhile, a dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed in the five-km belt along the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir as part of the current drive to check infiltration.

Twenty-five subversives were arrested following a crackdown on their hideouts by the security forces. The operation to apprehend other subversives is continuing. Licenses of arms dealers in the Kashmir valley and in Punch, Rajaori, and Doda Districts of Jammu Division have been suspended. The dealers have been asked to deposit the arms and ammunition in their stock with the government immediately.

PATRIOT Warns Bhutto on 'Immoderate' Speeches

BK2203102190 Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Caution, Ms. Bhutto"]

[Text] Ms. Benazir Bhutto's outburst in Muzaffarabad regarding her Government's firm commitment to a plebiscite "at any cost" in the Kashmir valley may be good as tub-thumping demagogy, but it is hardly well considered politics. It is time that Ms Bhutto put some consistency into her public statements on Kashmir. To wit, she should address herself to the question whether there is, or is not, a Simla Agreement which she adheres to and then act responsible within that framework. Whatever her internal compulsions, she must understand that when her own country is burning, immoderate and inflammatory speeches about "liberating" Kashmir—for this, minus the figleaf is what she is promising from Muzaffaabad—can be two-edged. While it may go down well with the people in the part of Kashmir under Pakistani occupation, how will it sound in Sind? Moreover, she must surely be aware that in the case of Kashmir there is a definite and legal distinction between

the word "plebiscite" and any kind of "self-determination". This was clearly understood by the Bush Administration which has dropped its support for a "plebiscite" on realising that in Kashmir this would devolve only on a choice between accession to India or Pakistan. Ms. Bhutto's use of words as in all demagogy, blurs the difference in this context between "plebiscite" and "self-determination", aside from the question whether the right of secession is admissible to part of a nation-state. The two are, percisely, not the same. Pakistan has to face the fact that sabre-rattling on such issues is counter productive. It would be well if Ms. Bhutto controls her impulse to incite passions on Kashmir. Let alone the harmful impact this has on relations between the two countries, it can also rebound on her own capacity to deal with very similar problems exploding on her side of the fence. In fact, it may be well for all sides concerned in this issue to make a dispassionate assessment of what really constitutes their own best interests in the long term, while keeping in mind that we have all passed the stage of taking any section of an awakened people for granted.

Singh Returns From Namibia, Comments on Kashmir

BK2203131690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that Kashmir is our internal matter and Pakistan has no right to interfere in it. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh made these remarks soon after his return from Namibia at the Delhi Airport where newsmen drew his attention to Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's remarks. Mr. Singh said Kashmir is a matter concerning our country and it will be solved by talking to the people of Kashmir. The question of talking to any outsider on this issue does not arise.

Answering a question on the infiltration of subversives from across the borders into Kashmir, the prime minister said it is not a friendly act on the part of Pakistan.

Mr. Singh said he had apprised a number of world leaders at Windhoek about India's stand on Kashmir and they have been convinced that all issues between the two countries should be sorted out in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

Commerce Minister on International Economic Order

BK2103043390 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] India expressed deep concern over attempts to restructure the international economic order in a manner which could only lead to strengthening the grip of advanced countries on the world economy. This concern was voiced by the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, in a message read out at the first ever meeting of senior officials of developing countries held in New Delhi today. The commerce minister strongly urged developing countries to stand united to ensure that international economic relations are not reshaped to their disadvantage at the end of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations under GATT.

All countries attending today's meeting agreed with the Indian approach of evolving strategies in the four main thrust areas of negotiation. These are market access, (?rule) making, trade-related intellectual property rights, and services.

Over 30 delegates from Asia, Africa, and Latin America are attending the two-day meet, which opened in New Delhi yesterday.

Minister Briefs Parliament on New Punjab Steps

BK2203132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] A fresh combing operation is being launched in the terrorist infested border districts of Punjab as part of the new strategy to check terrorism and restore normalcy. It will cover districts of Gurdaspur, Faridkot, Tarn Taran, and Amritsar. This was disclosed by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in the Lok Sabha today while replying to a calling attention motion by Mr Harish Rawat, Congress-I, and others on the recent spurt in terrorist activities in Punjab.

Outlining the new steps, the home minister said the wire fencing work has been taken up on a priority along sensitive stretches on the India-Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Steps are being taken to check smuggling and issue identity cards to people in the border areas.

The minister refuted the opposition charge that the policy of the present government has led to an increase in the terrorist killings of innocent people.

Earlier, making a statement, the home minister assured the house that there will be no compromise with antinational elements in Punjab. He said the process of consultations and political initiatives will continue.

Yaswant Singh Becomes Janata Dal Board Secretary

BK2203163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The chairman of the Janata Dal parliamentary board, Mr. Devi Lal, has appointed Mr. Yaswant Singh, MP [member of parliament) and general secretary of the Janata Dal, as the secretary of the party's Parliamentary Board. A circular to this effect was issued by Mr. Devi Lal today. The post of the secretary of the Janata Dal's Parliamentary Board was held by the party's secretary general, Mr Ajit Singh.

Talking to the PTI, Mr. Ajit Singh said that according to the party's constitution the secretary general of the Janata Dal is the secretary of the party's Parliamentary Board.

Rocket Engine 'Successfully Ground Tested'

BK2303093290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] The second-stage rocket engine test of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, has been successfully ground tested. The test was conducted at the liquid propulsion space center at Mahendra Giri near Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu. A senior official of the space center told PTI that the test lasted for about two minutes. He described the event as another important milestone in the Indian space research.

Iran

Larijani Comments on Hostages, Ties With U.S.

NC2303093390 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Mar 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Foreign Ministry adviser]

[Text] 1. The hostages are not the real obstacle to ties between Iran and the United States. Rather, the real obstacle is the U.S. definition of its interests in the region and the world and the policy it has adopted in order to attain these interests.

In the Persian Gulf region, the United States is pursuing its vital interests by constantly trying politically to dominate the key Islamic countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, and Iraq. In addition, it has no qualms about resorting to the most "illegitimate" tactics in order to attain these "illegitimate" objectives, such as military coups, economic pressure, and so on.

The main problem that exists concerning the ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States is this: We cannot accept those objectives, or even tolerate those tactics. If the United States is really interested in ties with Iran, it should limit its interests and revise its policies completely.

Today, the world of Islam is in the throes of a "renaissance" stemming from the Islamic Revolution in Iran, and this is a fact which no intelligent person can ignore. The days when U.S. military might inspired fear in the hearts of the people have passed, and this is more pronounced in the world of Islam than anywhere else.

2. It is obvious that what has been said refers to the issue of relations, whatever form or protocol may be implied in accordance with the differing circumstances or varying arrangements that apply. The fact is that diplomatic ties do not always move in parallel with actual relations, as there are countries which at the peak of hostility have maintained their diplomatic relations and, on the other hand, there are countries which do not have diplomatic relations even when there is no obstacle in the path.

Diplomacy is a channel by means of which a country pursues its interests. It would be simplistic to assume that it is possible to live in today's world by adopting a primitive or rudimentary approach. Today we are hemmed in by numerous enemies, with all their accoutrements, but we will never be intimidated by them or grovel before them, and we will look before we leap.

Today, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran commands the confidence of nations and the Hezbollahi ummah, and we should protect this center of the world of Islam against the intrigues of the atheistic world with all our might. We should forge ahead toward the establishment of a unified Islamic movement. May God Almighty ward off the evils of others, and in these conflicts [dargiriha] there are numerous opportunities to be found. [sentence as published] The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should utilize all its capabilities in this regard.

Khamene'i Speaks in Mashhad on Strength of Islam

LD2203221590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1745 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Speech by Aytollah Khamene'i to a gathering in Mashhad; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] As far as this revolution is concerned, God has perfected His proofs. I refer to two proofs which God has provided the world with for guiding the human beings who are seeking the truth, but there are many more proofs. One proof is the enmity of the evil people of the world toward this revolution. This is a yardstick. Wherever in the world you find a malignant individual or organization, someone who is evil, who perpetrates evil, who is the embodiment of the devil, who is the source of evil and corruption, whether in the East or in the West, whether among the developed countries of the world or whether among the underdeveloped countries, whether among the politicians or men of learning, writers and such like—wherever you find such an individual or organization you will see that they are totally against this revolution. They have an irreconciliable animosity toward this revolution.

I cannot think of another revolution in the world—and in the course of the history of revolutions, namely from about 70 years ago up till now—that has this characteristic to this extent. The superpowers were against our revolution and the superpowers are the embodiment of evil and corruption. The superpowers are the true and first-rank source of evil. I mean the governments and the leaders who have a part of the world under their power, and who interfere in the affairs of other nations apart from their own nation. Of course, at one time there were two superpowers in the world—the Western superpower, which was the United States and the Eastern superpower which was the Soviet Union. Today this division does not exist. Today the political form and shape of the world is different. However, even today, as in the past, the heads of the major satanic powers, whose existence is

the embodiment of evil and corruption, are against this revolution from the depths of their being.

Who can doubt that a goverment like the U.S. government is the embodiment of evil and corruption? What evil action can you think of in the world which has not been committed by it? The slaughter of human beings—in the course of many years you have witnessed that in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America, in the Middle East, in the sea or on land, wherever the Americans have felt that they have certain interests there and those interests would require a number of human beings to be killed, they have not refrained from doing so. Now, they are singing slogans supporting human rights. The satans of the world have always been like that. The fact that someone claims that he is a supporter of human rights does not solve anything.

Raising the issue of human rights on the part of the U.S. leaders, whether now or in the past, was a mere pretext: It was a means for greater gains. They have no faith in human rights. They are the same people who watch the Zionist government in Palestine subject the Palestinian people to the worst type of oppression, massacre, suppression and torture, and yet are not prepared to condemn its actions even in words. Are not the Palestinians human beings? Do human rights not include the Palestinians? They [Americans] are the same people who provide support for the most reactionary governments of the world, for the most dictatorial governments of the world. Those governments rely on them, receive assistance and help from them and, through their reliance on the United States, destroy human beings.

Look at the world and you will see those countries which do not have a consultative assembly even in name and in form. Which are those countries? At the moment there are certain countries—and there is no need for me to name them, all of you know which countries they are—where the running of the affairs of those countries are carried out without the slightest involvement of people and their votes: Governments which are personal dictatorships, which have no parliaments and no elections, where the people have no representatives in the legislature, where they do not have a president that they elect. One person or one family has absolute rule over those countries, over the peoples of those countries, the wealth of those countries, the oil of those countries, and they do to the people of those countries whatever they wish, including massacre, suppression, imprisonment, torture, and other forms of insults and calumnies against their nations.

Yet such oppressive and reactionary governments, governments which are so far removed from the world's political developments, governments which are so indifferent toward the rights of people, those governments are the United States favorite governments. The United States is their greatest defender. Can the United States be a supporter of human rights? Why then does it not send a mere note of protest to those oppressive, dictatorial, corrupt governments which totally neglect democracy and human rights, complaining that human rights have been violated in those countries? [passage omitted]

The issue of human rights is a mere deceit. The United States and many of the big powers do not believe in human rights at all. They are lying. It is only a deceit. They are using it as a means of exerting pressure. They are using it so that if they wish to put a government under pressure from public opinion they can use it against that government by accusing it of violating human rights and portray themselves as the guardians of human rights in the world. Where they find it necessary, they even dispatch military forces to a country and change the government of that country in the name of human rights. This is their support for human rights.

What other major crimes can you think of which are not committed by the U.S. rulers? How many nationalist governments have they toppled! In Africa, in Latin America, in the American continent [as heard], in the Middle East, in Asia—how many countries can you think of where the U.S. intelligence network, the CIA, entered, whenever it has found it necessary, and has hatched plots and conspiracies to topple a government which they were against? There are many.

The present U.S. President, Mr. Bush, who was once the head of the U.S. security and espionage machinery, knows full well what they have done in that organization. Perhaps he has done a lot of it himself. Plundering and attacking nations, spreading lies, propagating corruption in the world, belittling various classes of the people, even the United States. That is what the U.S. leaders and other oppressive and cruel powers in the world have done.

Such evil systems are the enemies of the Islamic Republic. There is evidence of this in the world. Anyone in the world who regards the matter carefully would be able to recognize the rightful position of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution, because of the opposition of these same wicked and corrupt elements. One can tell that a government, a revolution, a system, toward which the world's evil systems show so much enmity, is perhaps righteous. That perhaps they are set against this country, this revolution, because it is opposed to their wrongdoings. That is obvious.

I should tell you, honorable, intelligent and self-sacrificing people, there are some people, who are unfortunately called Iranians, who come from this land, who claim to be liberal-minded and have political sense, but who cannot see this clear evidence. They oppose the Islamic Republic while they see that the world's satans, wicked people, bully-boys and cursed systems, are against the Islamic Republic. They should have realized that when a system, such as the Islamic Republic, is confronted by satans, any human being who is against satans and devils should support that system and defend it.

I am surprised at those who claim to be liberal-minded or to have political sense, but who are not ashamed of

opposing the Islamic Republic, when they see the hostility of the enemies of mankind toward the Islamic Republic. Their conscience is dead, they are blind-hearted, even if they are liberal-minded and have political sense.

That is one proof. I believe that it is evidence provided by God in favor of the Islamic Republic. Whereever there is a malicious, evil and cursed faction it is hostile to, and against, the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

A very important point is that the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic, and the Iranian nation, have overcome all their assorted enemies despite all the opposition before and since the victory of the revolution. [crowd chants]

A government, a system and a nation which is opposed by all the evil, vile and corrupt powers of the world which are strong, which have weapons, propaganda, radio and newspapers, which have servants, mercenaries, intelligence and espionage organizations against it, which support its enemies; Nevertheless they are not able to shake that nation, that revolution and that republic. This by iteself is a divine proof. [chants of "God is great" and other slogans] This is a sign of the truth of the cause of you revolutionary and Muslim people.

At the beginning, they did not think that they would be unable to defeat us; but they did not succeed in defeating us. They kept making promises. They said that the Islamic Republic would fall in six months. Later, when this did not happen they made it longer, they said it would fall in one year. The discovered this was not possible, they extended it, they said in two years' time, they said in five years' time. The strength of the Iranian people forced the enemies to eat their words and to make the downfall of the Iranian system conditional on something whose timing was unknown. They said that the Islamic Republic would be defeated after the passing of the imam. Our illustrious imam passed away, he was taken to the divine presence. However, in the same way that every second, every moment of the life of that holy character during the revolution was a source of strength for the revolution, his passing too, due to his immense spirituality and his great popularity, further strengthened Islam and the revolution.

The sincerity which was manifested by the people, the affection which the people demonstrated toward their late imam, that funeral, that acting according to his will and testament, the respect which was shown to the imam's guidelines and his path, all those enhanced the integrity of the Iranian people and the integrity of the revolution in the world, in the same way that they also enhanced the dignity of the imam in the world. Thanks be to God, day by day the revolution is becoming more stable, the Islamic Republic more consolidated, and the Iranian nation has become more steadfast, and they will become even more steadfast. [chants of "God is great," other slogans]

I wish to inform you, the great and valiant nation, that you should know that the enemy is not capable of defeating this revolution and this nation; and, of course, you already know this. Your behavior has shown that you are aware of this fact. So long as the nation is on the stage, in the same way that today all the strata of our nation are on the stage; so long as the nation holds fast to Islam and the Koran, and people's adherence to Islam and the Koran is daily increasing among our nation; so long as unity of expression exists among our nation, and thanks be to God the unity of our nation is most manifest; so long as this adherence to Islam, this unity, this presence and sense of responsibility exists in this nation, the enemy will experience nothing but despair and despondency. You have made the enemy despair.

Today the government and system of the Islamic Republic are the most popular government and system in the world. The true votes of the people, people's affection and love, people's emotions and sentiments support this system and support the officials of this system. The enemies wish to insinuate that the people have deserted Islam. The people will never desert Islam. The people will move closer to Islam day by day. The people of the world, those who had been removed from Islam and were denied Islam for 70 years, are now moving closer to Islam. Due to the Islamic movement of you people, the Muslims of the world now feel proud of their Islam, while in the past they felt ashamed and dejected. All this is due to the uprising of the Iranian people. The Iranian people are daily moving closer to Islam.

Thanks be to God, today the officials of the country are thinking of the people and are engaged in satisfying the needs of the people and removing the shortages, and we and the officials possess the capability for doing this. You can already see some signs of it. Through God's grace I can say with full confidence that the progress of the Islamic Republic, both in material and spiritual fields, will make the enemies more angry and more despondent with the passing of every day. [chants of "God is great," other slogans]

Of course, the people should not forget that all that we possess is due to the blessing of Islam, the pure Islam, the revolutionary Islam, that Islam which is concerned about the oppressed and deprived people, not the Islam which is in the service of the rich and the powerful. There are other people in the world who also lay claim to being Muslims, but their Islam is one which is in favor of the rich, the capitalists and those who have billions of dollars in foreign banks. We do not believe in that Islam. We believe in that Islam for the sake of which the noble Prophet and holy figures sacrificed their lives; and for the sake of which Imam Husayn shed his own blood and the blood of his beloved ones; an Islam in whose service our illustrious imam spent his life; the Islam of the weak ones; the Islam of the barefooted ones; the Islam which gives power, glory and dignity to those who are lowly in society and saves them from misery and degradation; an Islam which drags down the bullies, the powerful and the tyrannical leaders from their thrones—and you see how

it is doing it in the world today, and you saw how it brought low Mohammad Reza and the hated Pahlavi family. That is the Islam we believe in.

All that you have you owe to Islam. All that you possess is due to your contact with God. Do not forget your contact with God. [passage omitted]

Editorial Comments on Lithuanian Independence Bid

NC2303132090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Lithuanian Bid Touchy Challenge to Gorbachev"]

[Text] Lithuanian Parliament approved on Sunday the republic's separation from the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR). Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has meanwhile termed the parliament's move "illegal". Yet a high ranking Communist Party official has rejected the possibility of Moscow's military intervention to prevent the separation.

Western countries for their part have adopted a cautious stance. While welcoming the independence bid none has yet granted any recognition to the self-claimed republic of Lithuania.

The move for independence from the USSR however will not stop in Lithuania. It is highly probable that two other republics on the shores of the Baltic Sea, Estonia and Latvia, too will follow suit.

As far as the law is concerned the Lithuanian independence move sounds legitimate. The Soviet Constitution does provide the legal framework for the step. According to the constitution the republics of the union may sever themselves from the union whenever they wish to do so.

But practically there may just be too much at stake for Moscow. If the union loses these three republics, all among the most advanced republics with the Soviet state, it will suffer a great blow. One major drawback will be the Soviet state's being cut off from the Baltic Sea.

There are, however, two conceivable scenarios for the republics' independence move from the Kremlin. First, the bidding republics may actually win their independence through the West's assistance and payment of the reparations Gorbachev is asking for. In that case, the huge remuneration to be paid by the separating republics will be gladly accepted by Moscow to alleviate its current economic bottlenecks. If so those republics will practically serve as a conduit for connection between Moscow and the West.

Secondly, if the republic's bidding for separation from the union cannot make the reparations asked by Moscow, or if the latter finds too much at stake to allow the independence, there might emerge a compromise which will grant conditional independence to the demanding republics. In this case Moscow will continue to oversee the activities of such republics. The latter too will play a pivotal role in transfering technology to other parts of the Soviet Union and will also contribute to the promotion of ties between the West and the USSR.

One thing cannot be overlooked though. Once Gorbachev wins as much executive power as he has been pushing for in recent months, it is quite possible that related development take a course unpredictable at present. Gorbachev has in the past displayed that he is the kind of guy who has the right stuff for taking absolutely unpredictable courses.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Namibia

LD2203121990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement on the occasion of Namibia's independence. It says: The resistance struggle of the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] movement finally reached fruition, and the struggles of the deprived people of that country against the oppressions of the racist South African regime led to the independence of Namibia.

The statement adds: The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates the nation and government of that country and all combatants and revolutionaries of Africa, on the occasion of the independence of Namibia. Iran declares its readiness to cooperate and extend relations with the newly independent Namibia, and hopes that the government and nation of Namibia will struggle—alongside other countries in the front line of resistance against the racist South African regime—to eliminate apartheid and the repressive rule of the racists over the black majority of South Africa, so that the peoples of these regions may, free from the presence of arrogance's cancerous growth in South Africa, in a real sense achieve reconstruction, expansion, and enjoy the benefits of their resources.

It should be remembered that before Namibia achieved independence, the SWAPO representative in Tehran enjoyed full diplomatic rights, and last year, after the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia, the staging of free elections, and the victory of the SWAPO movement led by Sam Nujoma in the parliamentary elections, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened an embassy in Windhoek.

Message Congratulates Pakistan on National Day

NC2303071590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] First Vice President Habibi has sent a message to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto congratulating the Pakistani Government and nation on the occasion of that country's national day. According to the Central News Unit, the message stressed the deepening and

expanding of cordial relations between the two neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan in view of the links between them, which have a common religious, cultural, and historical foundation.

*Report on 28 Feb 90 Majles Session

90OI0206A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
1 Mar 90 pp 5, 11

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened in public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, deputies Bayat, Vela'i, Shafe'i, and Khak spoke as pre-agenda speakers.

Then the Majles speaker gave a talk concerning the birth of His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him), His Holiness Sajjad (peace be upon him), His Holiness Abol-Fazl (peace be upon him), and Revolution Guards Day, which was published in the previous issue.

Then the deputies' memos to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that the only item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the report from the Second Council of the Revolutionary Organizations Commission concerning the bill to provide aid to veterans of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, several articles of which were approved by the deputies.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and the detailed proceedings.

Asadollah Bayat, Representative of the People of Zanjan and Tarom'alia

Mr. Asadollah Bayat from the Zanjan and Tarom'alia electoral district was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session. He began his talk with congratulations on the birth anniversary of the assignment of the mission of prophecy to the great Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) and the joyous birth of the joy of free people Hoseyn Bin-'Ali (peace be upon him) and Revolutionary Guard Day. He said: The sacred and great Iranian Islamic revolution was victorious with three characteristics and basic focal points. They were:

A. Being of the people and with the support of the millions of the Islamic nation of Iran, which was manifested in various ways and which was reflected and crystallized in their slogans.

B. Orthodox values inspired by divine commands, reflected decisively in the words of the imam of the nation of Islam (may his grave be sanctified) and in the demands of the nation, which are hidden from no one.

C. The prophetic leadership and imamate of his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him) that began on 5 June 1963 and reached its peak miraculously and extraordinarily with reliance on his holiness the hidden imam on 22 Bahman 1357 [11 February 1979] and brought about change and transformation in the country, in the region, and in the entire world.

He added: The imam, as guide and liberator of humanity, standing on the new foundations of the divine government, worked alongside his nation for 10 years to cut imperialism, led by world-devouring America and its henchmen, out of the region, and he used all resources to return dear Islam and the glorious Koran, which had been on the sidelines for centuries due the crimes of the enemies of Islam and so-called Islamic rulers, while the Islamic nation had been humiliated, to the forefront of life, and he renewed the splendor and greatness of the Islamic nation, and once again he presented the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) with a government and a system to the people of the world. Naturally this opened the way to unite the nation of Islam and to achieve a single Islamic nation, while the non-religious and non-Islamic schools of thought gradually lost their appeal and an Islamic revival swept the world. In the shadow of the imam's guidance (may his grave be sanctified) and the wave of the Islamic revolution, the world has seen the collapse of the great powers of the world, which we have seen in the Eastern bloc, and, God willing, in the near future we will see collapse and crisis in the capitalist world and its satellites.

He continued: From the moment the Islamic revolution triumphed under the leadership of his holiness the imam, the imam of the Islamic nation (may his grave be sanctified), and Islam and the Koran came out of isolation, there have been various plots from the enemies of Islam and their domestic agents. They were all seeking one thing, and that was to keep the Islam presented by the imam out of the public eye. After that, they will not oppose anything that arises, because they are opposed to the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) because in that Islam the deprived are the principle and the focus. In that Islam, the capitalists, because of their abundant capital and wealth, have no place in the government and system of Islam. In that Islam, the defense of the Hezbollah and the sufferers is an unwavering principle of the revolution and the government, and the fight against America is an unwavering principle of the revolution and the government. They have used every means to discredit the Islamic revolution and its divine leadership. They have tried military, economic, and even religious coups d'etat. On the one hand they launched dastardly and oppressive attacks against the accepted government, and on the other hand they expressed doubts about the proud gains of the Islamic revolution, and they even questioned the imam's clear statements concerning the support and confirmation of the government of Engineer Musavi, they made distinctions between obligatory commands and guidance, and tens of other acts of mischief and plots, mainly designed by world imperialism and implemented by domestic agents and some individuals who were and are unaware of the depth of the plots and fell unknowingly into their trap.

During these few years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, in the war, in other matters needed by the government and in economic programs, at every point they took pen in hand and joined forces with one another for sabotage in all of these episodes of deviation and differences of position with the government and the Imam. Although they did not succeed and were humiliated in the eyes of our aware and revolutionary people, they did not give up and they are still plotting. While the imam (may his grave be sanctified) was alive, they had a vicious grudge against him and were waiting for an opportunity, thinking that after the passing of the imam (May His Grave Be Sanctified) they would be able to realize their satanic aspirations and reach their evil objectives in the absence of the imam's physical presence, ignoring the fact that his talks, proclamations, thoughts, and ideas are immortal.

The students and graduates of his school of thought have stood firmly against these episodes of deviation. His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, a student of his, has unwaveringly followed his path and has stood his ground to thwart their plots. The president of the republic, one of his revolutionary students and a soldier of Islam, has stood against these episodes. The Islamic nation, the imam's inner circle, all the passionate members of the Mobilization, those who love the imam and the heroic deputies have stood against these episodes of deviation. The high ideas and thoughts of the imam will remain immortal.

They are thinking of declaring that the age of Khomeyni is over, the age of dealing with the capitalist leeches is over, the age of fighting with world-devouring America has ended, and they declare this in the hope that the credibility and seriousness of the imam's government penalties have ended. They say things like this decisively and with such courage and theology. Don't they realize that some of the imam's government penalties have been passed as laws by the Majles and approved by the Council of Guardians? Don't they know that some of them are the law of Islam and the clear principles of the book and the traditions, and that it is impossible to defend the principle of the government without realizing them and without relying on them? Has the credibility of these principles and fundamentals ended? Someone does not know that his holiness the imam's order to kill Salman Rushdie is founded in the government penalties, and is not the order of a sovereign government, but a religious decree from the imam and an elaboration of God's commands, and its implementation is incumbent on each and every Muslim in the world, its credibility is equal to that of Islam itself. Has an order from God on the necessity to kill one who slanders the Prophet expired?

If the order is taken in the sense of a religious decree, this order was issued by someone who had all the qualifications of a judge and even the holy imam cannot violate it. Has it lost its credibility? How can he say that he speaks from a theological point of view? Doesn't he know that what is forbidden in Islam is the category of singing, not every musical or semi-musical thing and song, it is absolute generally and specifically, the great theologians are agreed that singing is essentially forbidden. When and where did the imam say that singing is permitted? Not listening to the radio in the time of the idolaters has another philosophy. I don't know where he got this idea, and where he got the idea that singing is permitted on pragmatic grounds. No, it is not this way, and it is found by analogy in the fundamentals, and for these people living abroad it is not clear that it is established. There is a difference between what is essentially forbidden and what is said to be essentially forbidden but overlooked for pragmatic reasons, so that the point will actually not be practiced and will be doubted. This is the meaning taken by technicians, and I consider this sort of indifference on their part to be nothing other than their continuous indolence.

Don't they realize that considerations of time and place are not restricted to government penalties, but that they come into play in theories as well? If his analysis is correct, one must not emulate the imam in theories either, either directly or by inference.

He added: Here I must clearly declare to all those whose hearts beat for the Islamic revolution and the continuation of the way of the imam and the policies of his holiness the imam, as long as the nation is on the scene, and the tormented seminary students, the revolutionary teachers, and the oppressed and the deprived are on the scene, world-devouring America must know that the political, economic, and ethical ideas and thoughts of the imam will rule along with the leadership and the great leader of the revolution, and they must not think that things have changed and that conditions are right for them to return. Writers and free people, especially the imprisoned and tortured seminary students, are monitoring conditions and they will not fail to thwart these plots. The revolutionary teachers must remove themselves from ideas of this kind and the people who have them, and they must declare their own clear positions to them and their organizations, who have a mission to divert and reverse the truths and words of the imam.

In conclusion Mr. Bayat said: I expect all the aware and alert dear ones to defend vigorously and decisively the clear positions of our brother the respected speaker of the Majles.

'Isa Vela'i, Representative of the People of Tehran

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Vela'i, the representative of the people of Tehran, who discussed the great people's demonstration on God's day, 22 Bahman [11 February]. He said: The aware people trained in the school of our late imam have again gladdened the heart of the imam of the age, and they have shown with the 22 Bahman demonstration that they are willing to make any sacrifice in the way of their imam and behind the great position of the leadership.

He added: It was expected that the sworn enemies of this revolution, who believed that with the passing of the

imam his way and his message would be forgotten, would plan new plots after this unbelievable show of solidarity that negated their erroneous analyses yet another time in the course of this great Islamic revolution. However, we never imagined that world imperialism, led by America, would start undercutting the imam so soon after the year of the imam, and would launch such a dastardly attack against the most sacred accepted principle of our nation, meaning the leadership of our imam, from a sacred tribunal that ought to act to strengthen the government, and from the mouth of one who calls himself a student and a sincere devotee of that holy man. From the pulpit of the Friday prayer, which should function as a factor for unity, only the slogan of unity is heard, but in practice what is heard is the sound of discord and separation. Fortunately, Mr. Azari, because of his contrary and negative positions through the revolution, relieves us of the need to give him an answer, and his mistakes and baseless and illogical comments prove the correctness of what we say. Yet we are not certain that he will stick with what he has said and written recently, because he has expressed conflicting views at different times, and that may be due to the fact that his traditionalism has only been sought in his actions. For example in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] he said: "The idea that the new and recent positions of those who have no record in the time of the decline of revelation are without wisdom, and that the determination of their standing has been assigned to the vali-ye faqih's [supreme jurisconsult] discretion, the Islamic government, or for example the Majles, is unreasonable and baseless." This same gentleman, in answering the respected speaker of the Majles, says: Aren't the issues that have emerged in the world since the imam's death problems that post-date the imam? Who should determine their status? Haven't the contemporary issues that the imam mentioned in his Charter of Brotherhood been stipulated?" Of course he has received many blows from the imam, because on the question of taxes, which he classified as a secondary command, the imam announced the incorrectness of that and said that taxes are primary commands. In his support of capitalism, he called his opponents communists, he said that the war between rich and poor is over, and when the imam announced his view that the war between rich and poor must be preserved, he formed a grudge for the imam, although every time the imam announced a view, he changed his position so fast it reminded us of the "oh thief, oh thief" episode. The newspaper whose concession he owns himself carried the depravity and wretchedness to the point that it was sharply reproached by the imam, and he and his like-minded friends have received thousands of other rebukes. Clearly, he manifests this grudge in such a way today that he lies and says the leadership of the imam was signed by 12 people, although he knows very well that the episode of the 12 persons had to do with according "most learned" status to the imam after the death of the late Mr. Hakim, and that was in that period of suppression. Indeed, agreement to the imam's leadership was signed by all the experts, all the people of Iran, and indeed all the liberated Muslims of the world. There is nothing wrong with our belief, he is no saint, naturally there will be resentment and grudges evident in his talks and writings protected by the great position of the leadership. Indeed, the leader has the honor of being a student of the imam and one of the chief reason for the selection of his greatness to the leadership is something the imam said, and this is why the people say "According to Khomeyni, Khamene'i is our leader." Aren't you really attacking the imam in order to attack the current leader of the revolution? Since as a member of the Council of Guardians you wanted one of the grand ayatollahs appointed as leader, how is it that today you are saying that all of the sources of emulation are under the supervision of the vali-ye faqih? Isn't it your objective to pit the leadership against the grand ayatollahs? Isn't it your objective to establish credibility for your rigid ideas, which were criticized and attacked repeatedly by the imam? However, since this was not possible in the imam's lifetime, today you seek to achieve these objectives by declaring that the words of the imam are no longer effective, that one must follow the current leadership, and by stating directly that you yourself are more educated than the current leader of the revolution. You say that all the words of the imam must be implemented and that in the imam's absence they are no longer effective, but shouldn't the absolute velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], which the imam founded, also be implemented? If this is the case, how is it that you cling to the imam's words in this matter? You accuse some people of wrongdoing because they attack the book of God and imam 'Ali, and justifiably. Wouldn't it be wrong if we said that we followed 'Ali, and not the words of the Prophet? Shouldn't one follow both? In laying emphasis on the current leader, aren't you trying to shove aside the prophet of this revolution? Did 'Ali discard the ideas of the Prophet when he came? Wasn't he the one who continued in the path of that holy man? Isn't this the meaning of the verse "If he died or was slain, will you then turn back on your heels?" [Koranic verse] If the imam gave the commands of Islam, then naturally the great leader of the revolution will continue them. If you believe that all the commands he gave were against Islam, and your former thinking suggests this, it must be said that the people do not follow you and they do not regard you as an Islamic theorist. Didn't you introduce the distinction between obligatory commands and guidance in the remarks of his holiness the imam? Who ever said that the imam's commands to individuals remain in force and have no need of revision? Hasn't the great leader of the revolution implemented some of the commands and suspended others? No one disputes this. However, this vacillating from you now, for which you will have to answer in a few more days before the justice of God, is beyond the pale. Why have you questioned the existence of the revolution in these terms? Do you support the government? How can you be supporting the government when you so harshly attacked the government of Engineer Musavi, which was in a state of military and economic warfare with world imperialism and was validated repeatedly by the imam, even

receiving the honor of being called the toiling government by the imam? How can you be supporting the government today when, in your own newspaper in the midst of declining oil prices, you referred to the government with language such as "benefits of the death of big government," "the octopus of the court of big government," "the useless parasitical acts of big government," "big government will remain disturbing," "the destructive government system of big government," "the rotten system of big government," "the right hand giveth and the left hand taketh away"? How can you be supporting the government when you said the government will collapse?

You always said that if the capitalists were free, high prices and inflation would be held down, goods would be abundant, capital would bring prices down, and that available foreign exchange abroad is waiting for the removal of obstacles, but today this thesis of yours has also been overturned, and you have seen the capitalists leeches sucking the blood of the deprived and laughing at me and you. Do you understand now why the imam said he wouldn't trade a single hair of a shanty-town dweller for all the people living in mansions? You saw that a dealer in potatoes made a profit of 60 million tomans in one year, yet all the potato farmers in Damavand and Faridan did not have this much in sales. A company with more than 3 billion tomans in capital made a painless profit of 2 billion tomans in a single transaction, is thinking about the government! Yet the Shahed Company, which conducts commercial operations with the money of the children of martyrs, paid 110 million tomans in taxes to the government last year, yet more than 3,000 gold-sellers in Tehran paid about 60 million tomans. Why is it that one of the gentlemen supporting your thesis becomes a mediator to reduce taxes for the gold-sellers? Is this supporting the government, that in this economic crisis everyone is thinking of profit? Today, who is responsible for the high prices, the hoarding, and the profiteering? Isn't it freedom of trade? How much foreign exchange has come into Iran from abroad? Who plays games with the foreign exchange rate? Aren't they the same people you have been supporting for years? You say you are talking about continuation of the leadership, but "truth negates the false," because the meaning of continuation of the leadership is not and has never been the negation of His Holiness the imam's guidance, commands, and decrees. We believe that the current leader is the successor to his holiness the imam, and is the continuation of his way and methods. The framework of this revolution has been defined and the imam has destroyed the false traditions. He has rejected the non-Islamic thinking that has been put into people's minds in the name of Islam, and he has declared that the war between rich and poor is still underway. He has separated Americanized Islam from the Islam of Mohammad, and he has not authorized you and those like you to exercise discretion in this matter, so that you can make such statements whenever you wish. The imam has identified the characteristics of Americanized Islam, it is the Islam of the capitalists, those living with no pain in easy circumstances, people with rigid thinking, the very people who called out in the name of Islam to sabotage the government in the imam's lifetime during the war with world imperialism, and who claimed that they were the prophets of deliverance, that if their capital were unregulated, they would save the nation's economy, bring down inflation, and make goods available in abundance in such a way that supply and demand would determine prices. Fortunately, the respected president proved the falseness of the claims made by these leeches by giving them a free hand and rejected the claims of their supporters. We hope that tomorrow you will answer to us for all of this discord you have sown in the course of the revolution. However, you must realize that in the next world, the illogical reasoning you are now putting out for public consumption will not be accepted.

Karim Shafe'i, Representative of the People of Marand

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Karim Shafe'i, from the Marand electoral district. He began his talk offering congratulations on the joyous birth anniversary of His Holiness Aba'Abdollah al-Hoseyn, Abol-Fazl al-'Abbas, and Imam Sajjad (peace be upon him) and expressing the hope that we will all be able to be true supporters of the guidance of the imam, the proclamations of the imam, the words of the imam, and his will.

He added: In the same connection, I consider myself obligated to support the great leader of the revolution. Let us be obedient behind him, and certainly, just as perhaps all the friends and dear ones believe, the principle of velayat-e faqih is one of the imam's important and valuable gifts to the revolution and to our people, and certainly no one will ever forget either the imam's will, his message, his policies, or his principle of velayat-e faqih, and we will all protect it together. In any case, we all have the duty to protect the principle of velayat-e faqih, and precisely for this purpose we must support His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, not just to support him, but to consider it our duty and necessity to obey him.

Expressing renewed support for the government, Mr. Shafe'i also expressed the hope that the government would take more dramatic steps to implement the nation's development plans. He said: Today is the time of mobilization of all resources, but I feel that some managers have not yet taken this to heart, and sufficient attention is still not being paid to the primacy of work and the plan. The call for action must be much louder, and on the other hand the government must pay serious and timely attention to the matter of construction materials, machinery, and other resources. Otherwise, the increased development credit for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and subsequent years will go no further than the Majles legislation.

Continuing, the speaker said to the government: The most basic solution to the nation's current economic problems lies in production. Therefore, pouring foreign

exchange into the non-productive sector must be diligently avoided, and slogans for more work, more production, and less consumption must replace laziness, inactivity, overeating, excessive consumption, and greed as one of the principles of the nation's economic reconstruction.

He added: The government must specify and implement the patterns of production and consumption as quickly as possible, and it must diligently avoid scattered and unplanned efforts.

Mr. Shafe'i praised the revolutionary guards of the nation's Islamic Revolutionary Committee for their around-the-clock work in the fight against the counter-revolution, insurgents, and narcotics smugglers, and he gave assurances that the Majles deputies have clearly understood the efforts of the revolutionary guards, and that they will take this into consideration in their decisions for the contents of future bills.

The Marand deputy called on the government and the Majles to pay more attention to the matter of government employees, and he expressed the hope that the government would pay the New Year bonus to employees for next year in cash. He said: I say to the noble people of our nation that the reconstruction of our nation's damaged economy needs time, and I foresee universities, schools, exports, abundance, and relatively low prices for the future of our nation, for the nation is able to solve its problems in the best and most desirable way.

He added: I express my respect to the dear martyrs and the Islamic movement of Soviet Azerbaijan, and I stress that with the breaking of the bones of communism, which has produced nothing for the people but godlessness, cultural depravity, suppression, and absolute dictatorship, economic and scientific backwardness, severe inflation and public dissatisfaction, the people of these countries are faced with a dearth of theology, and henceforth the export of the revolution and the Islam of Mohammad must proceed with greater speed. In the face of the impending political unification of the world, which will be followed by the forming of ranks against the Muslims of the world, we must make the unity and solidarity of Muslims a top priority in our planning, and we must give theological support to all revolutions. Let us not forget the words of our late imam, who said that both East and West are our enemies, therefore we have no way to continue our human lives except to fight imperialism.

The Marand deputy complained vigorously to the Plan and Budget Organization for failing to provide properly for the credit needed by Sahand University of Azerbaijan and for the Zanjan-Tabriz-Marand highway in the budget for 1369, and he said: I hope that the relevant commission and the respected Majles will pay the necessary attention to the region's severe needs.

'Ali Reza Khak, Representative of the People of Rasht

Mr. Khak, representative of the people of Rasht, was the final pre-agenda speaker, who said: I thank the great brothers Mr. Bayat and Mr. Vela'i for their eloquent remarks. I believe that the Majles, which is a sacred and valuable place, is the only center for expressing the ideas and points of view of the true representatives of the people, the place for exchanging views and for an encounter of the high ideas of the nation's best minds in order to obtain the best and most practical laws for advancing the goals of the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For this reason, I believe that the strongest, most powerful, most expert, and most committed people must be chosen as Majles deputies. Success in reaching a real policy based on Islamic commands for the correct management of a strong government can only be achieved through consultation and the exchange of views between informed and expert people concerned about the Islamic government. It is the task of the Majles deputies, in addition to performing law-making duties, to express views on political, economic, and social affairs and to give constructive criticism of officials and insiders, to offer solutions, and to give tests of work performance and warnings.

Therefore, all these things are to strengthen the Islamic government, not to weaken it, for under Article 86 of the Constitution, Majles deputies, as representatives, are completely free to express their views and opinions, and they cannot be prosecuted because of views they have expressed in the Majles. This freedom of expression and this discretion is only for Majles deputies, and it does not exist for anyone other than Majles deputies. The reason it exists is to strengthen the Majles, and this is why the Majles deputies state their opinions and views without any problem and with confidence. No one has the right to slander Majles deputies from this tribune or in the media, for this is subject to prosecution.

The speaker then added: I believe that in addition to the heroic struggle with world atheism and the effort to destroy the sworn enemies of Islam, our major success has been in showing the true face of Islam using the latest resources and abilities for the people of the world, as well as efforts to create a model Islamic society and presenting it as a pattern. Therefore, what I said briefly in a speech on 13 February 1990 concerning the wisdom of his holiness the imam, (may God be pleased with him) was for this aim and none other. Our dear ones in Gilan must note that what was said by tendentious and opportunist people was empty, without value, and not worth repeating. You know that opponents, with political motivations and objectives, have generated propaganda to try to turn public opinion against me. This is nothing new, and the people of Gilan, especially those in the municipality of Rasht, are fully aware of these issues. As your servant in the Majles along with other representatives of the revolutionary people of this country, I serve in the esteemed presence of the great and compassionate brother who believes in the fundamentals of his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him), meaning His

Holiness Ayatollah Karrubi, and also in the shadow of the great leader, and I plead for prayers from you dear ones for all those who serve and truly believe in Islam and the Islamic revolution.

To the newspapers RESALAT and ETTELA'AT, I would like to mention that they should be honest in presenting the talks of the Majles deputies, like the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Details of the Proceedings

The only item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the report from the Second Council of the Revolutionary Organizations Commission concerning the bill to provide aid to veterans of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war.

In continued consideration, Articles 8 through 14 of this law were considered and approved by the deputies. The text of these articles is as follows:

Article 8: The Fisheries Corporation is required to allocate 40 percent of the authorizations for fishing and fish farming licenses and the associated resources each year to the veterans mentioned in this law.

Article 9: The Ministry of Commerce and all other pertinent organizations are required to give priority to the veterans mentioned in this law in the procurement of the construction materials, machinery, raw materials, and other materials needed for veterans employment projects.

Article 10: The Ministry of Commerce is required to issue business licenses to the persons mentioned in this law who own or rent a place of business and who do not have permanent employment.

Note 1: The sheriff's offices and trade unions are required to cooperate in the implementation of this law.

Note 2: If the type of employment sought by a veteran requires him to acquire technical competence, the applicant may, by directly presenting evidence of qualifications, and subject to employment, apply for a business license.

Article 11: The Ministries of Energy, Construction Jihad, Post, Telegraph, and Telephone and other pertinent organizations and affiliated companies must give priority to veterans in the creation of facilities, services, the procurement of water and electricity for pertinent projects, and in the issuance of authorizations and handicraft industries.

Article 12: All ministries and organizations to whom this law pertains must provide a list each year to the Central Veterans Staff of the names of all annual projects, agreements, licenses, and other authorizations and related information before they are publicly announced, and issue them to the veterans in the manner determined by the staff.

Article 14: For the purpose of providing loans, aid, and other economic and commercial needs to the cooperative sector, a cooperative fund is to be established with priority for veterans. The capital for this fund will be procured by returns on loans paid out in connection with the unemployment project, government assistance, and other sources.

The charter for this fund will be prepared within two months by the Ministry of the Interior for Majles approval.

Note: The government is required to insert a line in the national budget law each year under the heading Help to the Cooperative Fund for Veterans Employment, and the foreign exchange needed by veterans must be included in the foreign exchange tables.

The Majles will meet in public session next Monday.

Absolute Velayat-e Faqih: Yes or No?

Your Excellency Mr. Bayat, Your Excellency Mr. Vela'i:

Your remarks from the free tribune of the Majles criticizing the remarks of Ayatollah Azari-Qomi have been heard by the Iranian nation, by the friends and the foes of the Islamic revolution, and by the clergy. Everyone knows that in his pre-sermon talk at the Friday prayer, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi only defended the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih, and confirmed it. He attacked no one other than Hatam Tajer, for defending Salman Rushdie. It must now be asked, why the abuse and the accusations in that learned speech? A scholar and theologian from the Qom Seminary has defended the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih. If you are opposed to this view, you must reject it with reasons and proof, and if you agree with him, then thank him. If you agree with the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih but you object to his presentation, then establish that with reasons and citations from his remarks. However, public opinion cannot be diverted from a basic and important matter with abuse and insults. In these several days not one of you has said clearly and plainly whether you are for or against the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih. Therefore, none of you has made a clear and plain statement concerning the principle which, as affirmed by his holiness the imam, is the most important and most basic issue of the government, and which Ayatollah Azari-Qomi has discussed clearly and plainly in his pre-sermon talk at the Friday prayer.

Accusations such as supporting capitalism, supporting America, supporting feudalism, reactionary behavior, and other things have been levied since the first days of the revolution by the hypocrites and other mini-groups, and the people are no longer satisfied with these words and slogans.

The people want to know whether or not you accept the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih, and what are your reasons? The people consider the principle of velayat-e faqih to be the flame of government by the Prophet of

God, the commander of the faithful, the imam of the age (peace be upon them all) to be the basis and the foundation of their revolution and government, and they defend it with their entire being. Our people came to know Ayatollah Azari-Qomi when he alone, in defense of the dear and late imam, was the standard bearer of the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih in this country, and he aided the imam in this important, basic, and difficult issue, and he discussed the matter extensively in a series of articles on absolute velayat-e faqih throughout the seminaries and Muslim society. Now also, in the absence of the great imam, and when it is more difficult, praise God he has bravely come forth to defend the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih. He has endured all the insults, attacks, and abuse and defended the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih, and you yourselves certainly know that the greatest opponents of absolute velayat-e faqih are the liberals, religious conservatives, reactionaries, and hypocrites.

Why are you gentlemen, who present yourselves as defenders of the dear imam (peace be upon him) and claim you are not willing to have even one word from the imam to be added or deleted, silent on the subject of absolute velayat-e faqih, which is the greatest and most valuable legacy and work of Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him), and why do you attack its defender? You should help this principle acquire its rightful place in our society. You should work to elaborate on Ayatollah Azari-Qomi's comments and work to clarify this basic principle. Our nation expects its officials to defend the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih, and to plan their actions on that basis. Certainly, any action against the principle of velayat-e faqih will become clear sooner or later and will be questioned by the revolutionary nation.

God forbid that unclean hands, seeking to obstruct absolute velayat-e faqih, should set out to create an unwholesome climate of opinion with propaganda, to muddy the waters, and to sow discord between the two groups believing in velayat-e faqih, and that we, unwittingly, instead of humiliating them and supporting the principle of absolute velayat-e faqih, should attack the one who is defending the principle. Who will benefit from this in the end?!

Nepal

Further on Demonstrations for Multiparty System

5,000 Workers Strike

BK2203160890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 22 (AFP)—More than 5,000 Nepalese factory workers have been on strike since Wednesday [21 March] to back their demands for better pay, benefits and the right to unionize, sources said Thursday. The strike affected 55 privately owned industries in Hetaunda and Birganj industrial townships, respectively 40 and 80 kilometers (25 to 50 miles) south of Kathmandu, said sources in the townships contacted by telephone.

The strikers, backing a month-old campaign for the restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal, also demanded the right to register independent trade unions, the sources said. Nepal currently allows only one labour organization, which was established by the government and supports the partyless panchayat political system. The workers' demands also included better pay, subsidized housing, and medical insurance and facilities for them and their families.

The factories affected by the work action included Annapurna Textile, Easter Textile, Megha Wool Factory, Swedeshi Footwear, Narayani Leather Factory, Gauri Shanker Rolling Mills, Ashok Textile and Food Industries, the sources said.

Meanwhile about 800 staffers of the government-controlled Civil Servant Provident Fund Corporation (CSPFC) stopped work for an hour Thursday morning in Kathmandu to protest against the arrest of two colleagues in connection with the current political unrest. They demanded the release of their colleagues, condemned alleged human rights violations by authorities, and expressed support for the multi-party democracy demands, a CSPFC source said.

And at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Institute on the outskirts of the capital, more than 500 nurse trainees and medics observed an hour-long work stoppage, calling for the release of medical personnel arrested by authorities.

In Dharan, authorities Thursday arrested about 38 activists and students, six of them women, who were meeting to organize a "National Solidarity Day" Friday, opposition sources said.

Nepal's banned opposition parties have called for the National Solidarity Day to press their demands for revival of multi-party government and greater human rights in Nepal. Authorities say they have taken precautions to prevent disturbances on Friday.

Arrests Precede 'Solidarity Day'

BK2303014890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1943 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, March 22 (AFP)—About 300 people including 200 students and 40 lawyers were arrested Thursday [22 March] at Pokhara in an apparent bid to prevent the banned polictical parties observing a "national solidarity day" Friday, banned party sources said.

The students were arrested while holding a meeting at a hostel in the Forest Science Institute in Pokhara 225 kilometres (140 miles) west of Kathmandu, while the lawyers were arrested at the town's courthouse, they said.

Groups of riot police were seen patrolling Kathmandu late Thursday to check on the movements of banned party activists.

The editor of the weekly SHIVA KHADKA was arrested Wednesday for reporting student protests, while an arrest warrant was also issued for the chief editor of the DESHANTAR (foreign land), KISHWOR NEPALI and its publisher Bandhu Thapa, an official source said. [passage omitted]

Students March in Kathmandu

BK2303081090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, March 23 (AFP)—About 400 students carrying black flags as a symbol of democracy marched through the streets here early Friday [23 March] and three were arrested, witnesses said. The students from the Nepal Adarsha Secondary School were stopped by riot police before reaching a vegetable market, the witnesses said.

Elsewhere in the city, hundreds of riot police carrying sticks and bamboo shields were observed guarding various street corners and public areas in an apparent attempt to foil planned demonstrations by pro-multi-party campaigners observing "national solidarity day" on Friday.

Nepal's banned opposition parties called for the day to press their demands for the revival of multi-party government and greater human rights in Nepal. A banned party source said demonstrations were planned for late afternoon.

The government currently allows only one labor organization, which was established by the government and supports the partyless panchayat political system.

On Thursday night, activists for the banned parties demonstrated in the outskirts of the city and at Banepa, a town about 30 kilometers (20 miles) to the east. They carried torches and anti-panchayat slogans, reports reaching here said.

Staff members of the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital near the city also held a prayer meeting in memory of people who were killed by police while demonstrating over the past five weeks. They have been demanding the release of medical personnel arrested by authorities. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Use of PRC Arms

OW2203132890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1313 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 22 KYODO—The Nepalese Government Thursday denied press reports that it was using Chinese arms to control the pro-democracy movement in the Kingdom. The reports are "wholly false and misleading", said chief government spokesman R.S. Bista in a written statement distributed at a weekly press briefing.

Newspapers in Katmandu had reported this week that riot police were seen carrying Chinese AK-47 rifles while handling demonstrations.

Nepal bought arms from China in the mid-1980s in order to modernize its army. Later, India, the Kingdom's neighbor to the south and traditional arms supplier, raised strong objections to the purchase.

The arms issue still dominates Nepal-India talks intended to improve bilateral relations, which soured last year.

In a related incident, private citizens said the local administration of Katmandu district Thursday remanded to custody 12 persons under the nation's security act, which provides detention without trial for nine months.

Those jailed include human rights activists Devendraraj Pandey and Mathura Shrestha as well as lawyers, university teachers and a senior nurse.

Pakistan

Controversy Over Bhutto's Tenure Continues

Vote of Confidence Not Required

BK2203161890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] The PPP [Pakistan People's Party] parliamentary group met in Islamabad this afternoon under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. Later, a spokesman of the party told newsmen that the party observed at the meeting that the Constitution does not require any fresh vote of confidence for the prime minister as she has been elected for a term of five years.

Minister: Bhutto To Complete Term

BK2203164890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The National Assembly was told this evening that the present House had been elected for five years and that it would complete its constitutional term. The parliamentary affairs minister, Khwaja Tariq Rahim, categorically stated in the House that the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, had taken her oath under the Constitution and a vote of confidence and she would complete her prescribed tenure of five years. He was speaking in the House after four members of the COP [combined opposition parties] present when the session began staged a walkout in protest against convening the session without sufficient notice on the eve of Pakistan Day.

Earlier, on a point of order, Syedah Abida Hussain, independent; and Chaudhary Amir Hussain, IJI [Islami

Jamhoori Ittehad]; announced on behalf of the COP their protest at holding the session a day before the Pakistan Day because of which, they said, the members of the opposition were unable to attend the session. They, therefore, announced the boycott of the proceedings by the opposition. They also argued that insufficient notice had been given to the members for the session.

The speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, pointed out that notice for the session had been publicized on radio, television, and the press fulfilling the requirements of the rules.

The parliamentary affairs minister regretted that at this juncture when Pakistan needed a strong government to face the multifarious challenges to its security on account of Kashmir and Afghanistan, the opposition was not playing a fair game by its efforts to undermine the authority of the government. On a move by the parliamentary affairs minister, the house offered fateha [prayers] for the martyrs who laid down their lives during the freedom struggle in Indian-held Kashmir. [passage omitted]

The Senate began its 26th session in Islamabad this evening. Senator Tariq Chaudhary objected to the convening of the session in an emergent way giving two or three days' notice to the members. He alleged that the session has been called, as he termed it, to sabotage the 23d March rally in Lahore and pointed out lack of quorum. In view of this, he said the opposition members would boycott the session and he walked out along with some other members. Senator Bahrawar Saeed supported his contention.

The minister of state for parliamentary affairs regretted the attitude of the opposition and said as per tradition of the House, the quorum has never been pointed out. Those who claim to have established tradition, he said, are themselves violating them.

The House was adjourned to meet again on Sunday [25 March] afternoon.

Opposition To Take Challenge to Court

BK2303024090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1802 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 22 (AFP)—Opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi Thursday [22 March] said the combined opposition parties (COP) had decided to move a writ petition in the High Court challenging the consitutional position of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He told a news conference here that Ms. Bhutto had lost her credentials and was bound to go for reelection following the ending Tuesday of a constitutional amendment which had allowed the president to appoint a prime minister. The amendment was made by late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq and was valid until March 20. Mr. Jatoi said another vote of confidence would not serve the purpose and would not be acceptable to the opposition.

Earlier the parliamentary board of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) rejected the opposition's demand that Ms. Bhutto face a fresh vote of confidence saying "there was no legal basis" for the demand.

The COP chief said Ms. Bhutto had wanted a vote of confidence Thursday, but "she changed her mind all of a sudden," adding that the opposition had decided to boycott parliamentary sittings in protest at the convening of the current session on short notice. The government had convened the session on March 22 "to sabotage the opposition's rally" being held in Lahore, Friday, he added.

Earlier three federal ministers at a joint press conference said Ms. Bhutto was elected for a period of five years and her constitutional status could not be questioned. They said the prime minister was not going to take a fresh vote of confidence or seek reelection and the opposition's demand was "absurd and perverse." The ministers said the COP's interpretion of the Consitution was not tenable. The tenure of the assembly was for five years up to November 30, 1993, unless it was dissolved, they said, adding that this also applied to the office of prime minister.

Growing Numbers of Kashmiris Cross Border

BK2303022290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1821 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 22 (AFP)—Large numbers of people have fled Indian Kashmir and crossed into Pakistan-controlled areas of the mountainous region in recent days to escape separatist violence and alleged Indian repression, a senior Pakistan official said Thursday [22 March]. The number of refugees had grown, the high ranking official said, giving a figure of "several thousand."

The official, who asked for anonymity, said the Pakistan authorities had not taken specific measures to cope with the growing refugee population. He said that most of them had friends or family on the Pakistan side, known as Azad (free) Kashmir.

Local journalists reported Tuesday that hundreds of Kashmiri refugees had crossed into Pakistan from northern India's Jammu and Kashmir State. They also reported that some people had perished in avalanches while making the crossing in the difficult terrain along the line of control separating the Pakistan and Indian Armies.

The Pakistan press said Thursday that up to 45 people had died in the atrocious weather conditions.

President Speaks at Pakis Day Military Parade

BK2303112090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has called upon the people to continue their struggle until they achieve the

objectives of independence, stability, and reconstruction of the country. He was addressing a joint services parade held in front of the Parliament House in Islamabad this morning to mark the 50th anniversary of Pakis Day. He said we would not rest content until we secure the country from external and internal threats. He made an impassioned appeal for keeping national interests above everything else and making Pakistan the only identity. He recalled that unity, love, and affection among the people were a prerequisite for achieving this goal. Turning to the situation in Pakistan's neighborhood, the president regretted that our eastern neighbor, by sharply increasing its defense potential, is not only creating an uneasy atmosphere in the entire region, but also denying the Kashmiri people their recognized right of self-determination. The president categorically stated that Pakistan would continue to support the right of the Kashmiri people.

The president asked India to learn a lesson from history which bears testimony to the fact that freedom movements cannot be crushed or supressed by use of force. The Kashmir solution can be achieved only through implementation of the UN resolutions on giving the right of self-determination to Kashmiris. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan referred to Pakistan's deep and close ties with the Kashmiri people and said they are part of the nation which declared Pakistan its destiny 50 years ago.

About Afghanistan, the president reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to continue support for the Afghan people in their struggle.

On the country's defense, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that we will continue to strengthen our Armed Forces.

Iranian Army Chief Discusses Military Cooperation

LD2103112190 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—The Iranian Army Chief of Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi now on a tour of Pakistan, discussed cooperation in various fields including military area with Pakistani Army commanders and officials, in Islamabad monday.

Shahbazi first met with his Pakistani counterpart General Aslam Beg, who described mutual cooperation especially in military field as "bright and promising."

The Pakistani general also thanked the people and government of Iran for their "clear stance" on the Kashmir issue and called on all Islamic governments to support the Kashmiri people's right to sovereignty.

Shahbazi also discussed ways of expanding bilateral cooperation with the commander of Pakistan's ground forces and Minister of State for Defense Affairs Ghulam Sarwar Cheema.

Meets Naval Commander

LD2103190190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who is currently in Pakistan heading a high-power military delegation, met the Pakistan Navy commander this morning. At the meeting he surveyed bilateral relations between the two countries.

According to the report of the Central News Unit from Islamabad, at the said meeting the Pakistani naval commander, referring to his previous visit to Iran as well as to his talks with the officials of our country, especially in the field of expanding relations on marine cooperation, said:

The sensitive nature of South Asia and the presence of several hundred million Muslims in the region in themselves provide the necessary incentives for cooperation among the Islamic countries. In the case of Iran and Pakistan there are special reasons to prompt the two countries to expand their ties in all fields and these reasons are the existence of long-standing bilateral relations as well as common cultural and religious backgrounds of the two Muslim countries.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia

BK2303055090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Namibia. Pending establishment of a resident mission in Windhoek, the government has decided to concurrently accredit the Pakistani high commissioner in Zimbabwe, Mr. Rifat Mahdi, to Namibia.

Authorities Ban U.S. Firm's Toxic Waste

BK2303021290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1858 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Karachi, March 22 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities have banned the entry of a ship carrying "hazardous poisonous and corrosive" material from a U.S.-based company, officials here said Thursday [22 March].

Port authorities also said the Maritime Security Agency had been alerted against the vessel's arrival.

The director general of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said "the consignment which was due to enter Pakistan on April 2, will not enter," and would be redirected to its point of origin.

The consignment had been sent by a California-based company to Dubai where it was to be loaded onto another ship for transfer to Karachi, sources said.

The EPA was now examining the shipping documents together with the list of chemicals being carried, the sources said.

The EPA director general said the bonafides of the Pakistani importer and the motive behind the consignment were also being looked into.

Press reports here have suggested the toxic chemicals worth 12,706 U.S. dollars were being imported for dumping somewhere in Pakistan.

Reports of the consignment's arrival had created considerable concern among the public and social welfare agencies who have urged the president and the prime minister to immediately stop such transactions. They also demanded a ban on the dumping of toxic chemical waste in Pakistan.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, economic, military, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed, with personal and place names rendered in accordance with FBIS transliteration style.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Soviet Union, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications—except those which have restricted dissemination due to copyright or other reasons—are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Information on the Official Use Only JPRS Reports must be obtained from FBIS at the address or telephone number given below.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche, unrestricted and Official Use Only reports) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D. C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.) For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (703) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available.

Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies—except the Official Use Only Reports—may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.